4
Tokyo
TARAREBA
GIRLS
AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA

Tokyo TARAREBA GIRLS

4

AKIKO HIGASHIMURA

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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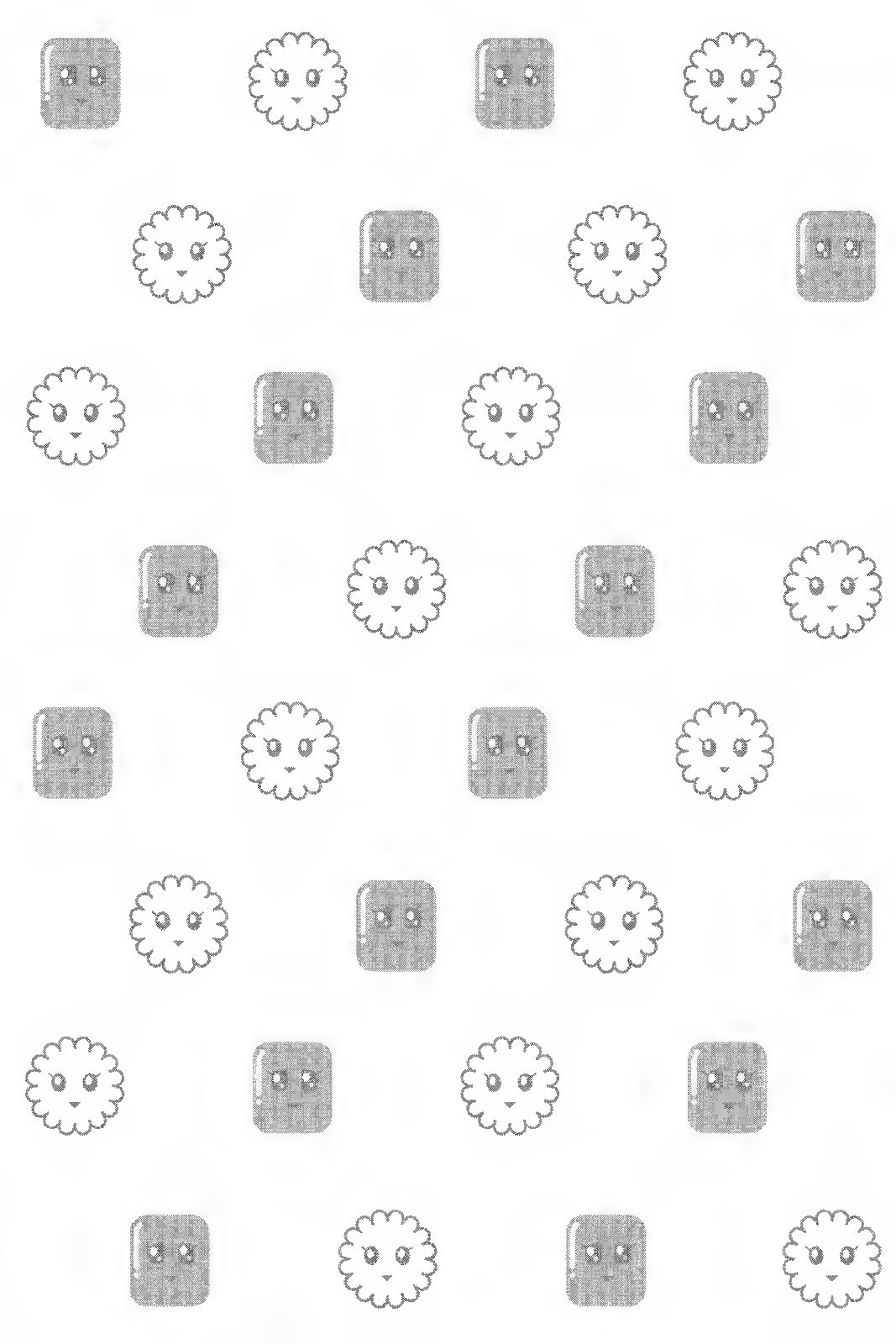
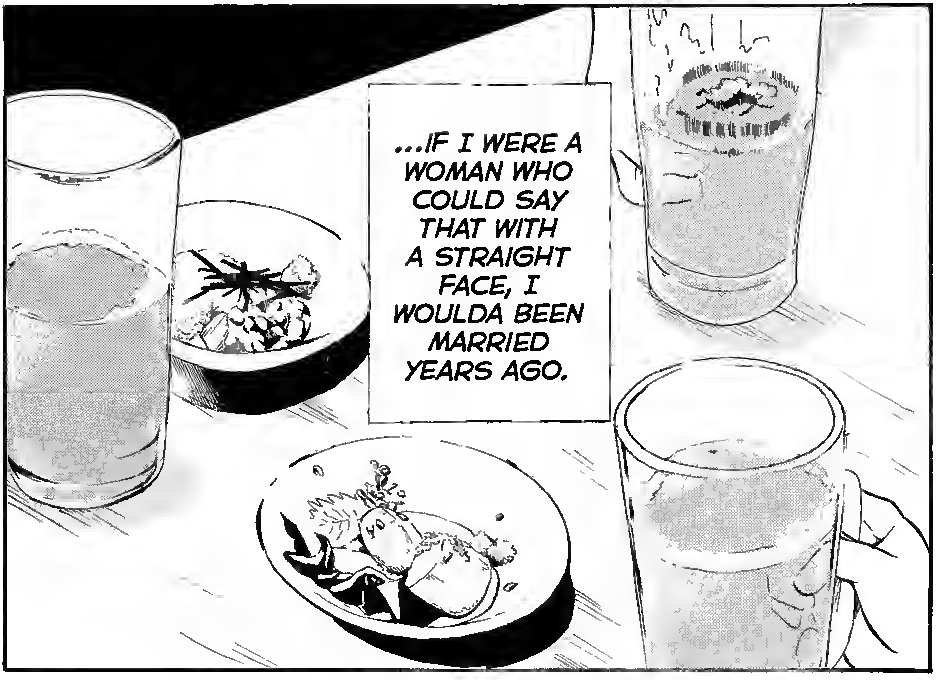
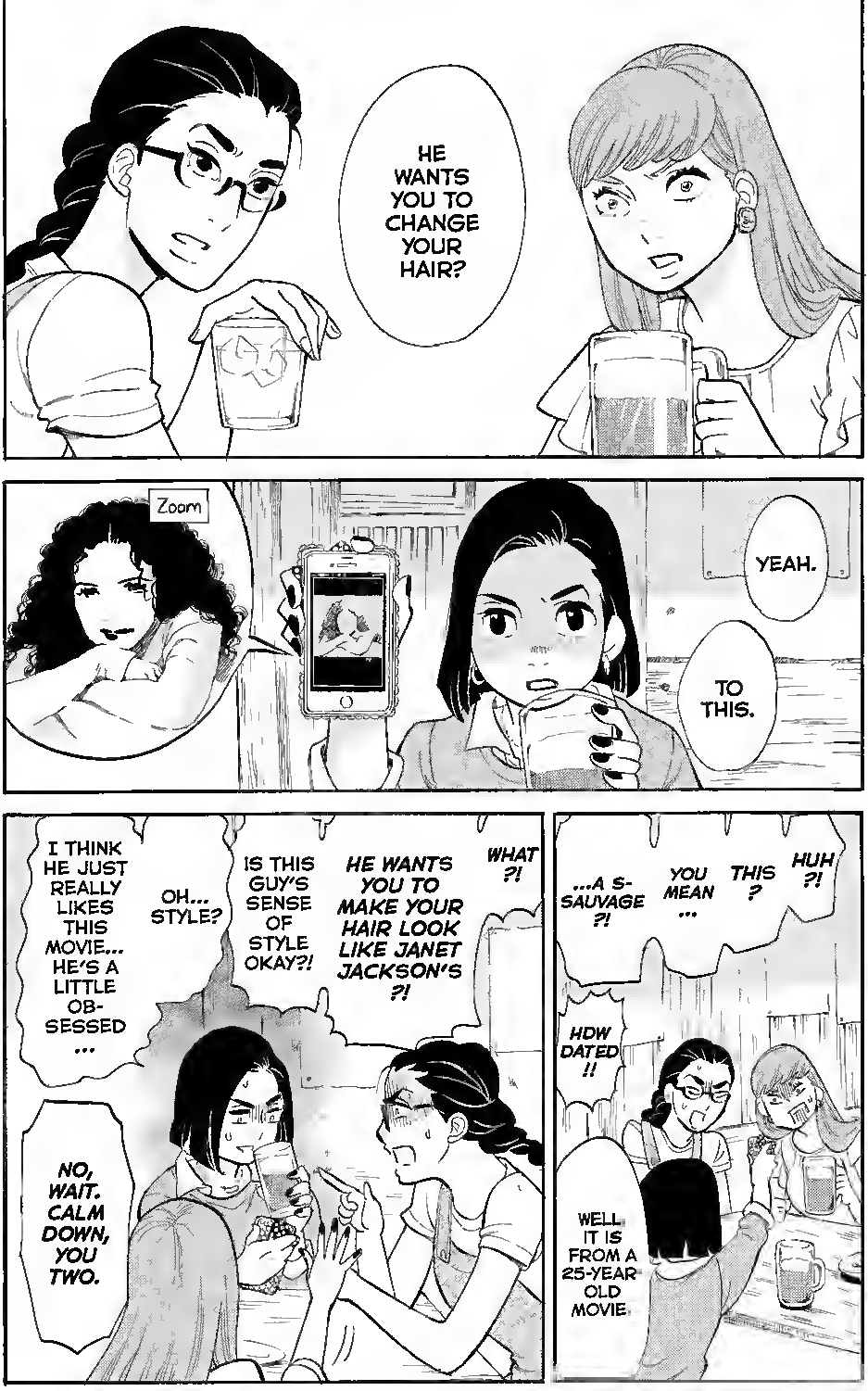
ACT 12 SUDARA WOMEN



"NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY GET, WOMEN WANT THEIR BOYFRIEND TO COLOR THEIR WHOLE WORLD."


...IF I WERE A WOMAN WHO COULD SAY THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE, I WOULDA BEEN MARRIED YEARS AGO.


HE WANTS YOU TO CHANGE YOUR HAIR?
Zoom
YEAH.
TO THIS.
I THINK HE JUST REALLY LIKES THIS MOVIE... HE'S A LITTLE OB-SESSED ...
OH... STYLE?
IS THIS GUY'S SENSE OF STYLE OKAY?!
HE WANTS YOU TO MAKE YOUR HAIR LOOK LIKE JANET JACKSON'S ?!
WHAT ?!
NO, WAIT. CALM DOWN, YOU TWO.
...A S-SAUVAGE ?!
YOU MEAN ...
THIS ?
HUH ?!
HDW DATED !!
WELL, IT IS FROM A 25-YEAR OLD MOVIE.

AND IN BED HE'S...
HIS PERSONALITY?
SWEET!
HIS BODY?
MACHO !!
HIS FACE?
GREAT !
EVERYTHING ELSE IS REALLY FREAKIN' GREAT !!
IT'S GREAT !!
LOOK, MAYBE HIS STYLE'S KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED BECAUSE HE LOVES THAT MOVIE, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT HIM IS GREAT, RIGHT?!
THEN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, GO TO THE SALON AND GET YOUR HAIR PERMED UP ALL FRIZZY!!
GOOD !!
FWAP
WHOOSH
SUPER, EXPLOSIVELY GREAT, CHIEF PETTY OFFICER !!
RIGHT?
I WOULDN'T.
NO...
NEITHER WOULD I.
IT'O BE RUOE NOT TO DO THAT MUCH FOR HIM!!
HE'S GOING OUT WITH YOU ANO YOU'RE NOT YOUNG OR PRETTY!!
HUH?
THEN, YOU'D PERM YOUR HAIR IF YOU WERE IN HER POSITION, KAORI?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?! YOU'VE GOTTA MEET HIM HALFWAY ON HIS PREFERENCES!!
I DON'T WANT FRIZZY HAIR!!
WAHHHHH!!

CLOTHES ARE ONE THING, BUT I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO LET A MAN CHOOSE MY HAIRSTYLE.
RIGHT?
AL-THOUGH I DON'T WANT THEM PICKING MY CLOTHES EITHER.
OR YOUR DECO-RATING, RIGHT?
HOLD-ING YET ANOTHER WHAT-IF GIRLS' NIGHT OUT?
WHOA!
THE BIG STAR'S HERE.
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS, YOU CELEBRITY?
ARE YOU REALLY DRINKING AGAIN AFTER WHAT YOU DID YESTERDAY?
IT'S OKAY! RINKO IS SUUUPER HAPPY RIGHT NOW!
THAT'S RIGHT! RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TOSSING BACK A FEW WHILE WE LISTEN TO HER GUSH ABOUT HER NEW BOYFRIEND!
AH, THAT NEW MAN SHE MEN-TIONED.
SO?
DID YOU SAY YOU WERE MARRYING THIS GUY?
HUH?!
MARRY-ING?
WHAT?! YOU'RE ALREADY THAT FAR ALONG?!
PINK

GRR!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND A GOOD ESCAPE ROUTE.
GOOD FOR YOU.
I GUESS SO. WE AREN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER, AFTER ALL...
OH... WELL, YEAH...
TWITCH
TWITCH
I'M NOT ESCAPING FROM ANYTHING!
MARRIAGE IS A LOT HARDER THAN WORK!
THUNK
POPS, GIVE ME A BEER AND A *MOTSUYAKI* COMBO PLATTER.
COMING RIGHT UP!
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL WHEN YOU'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN MARRIED!
I HAVE.
HUH?!

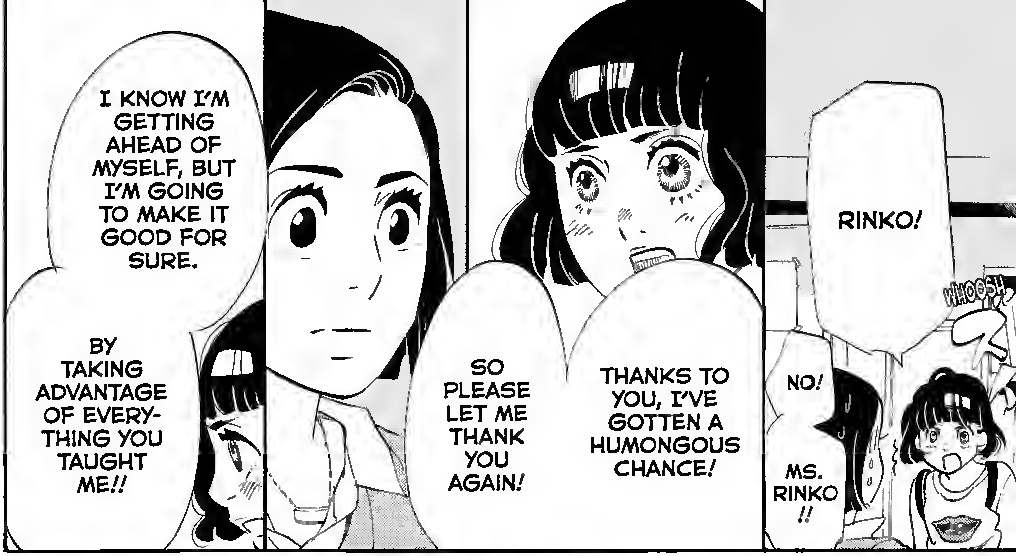
*MOTSUYAKI: A DISH OF SKEWERED AND GRILLED CHICKEN, PORK, OR BEEF OFFAL

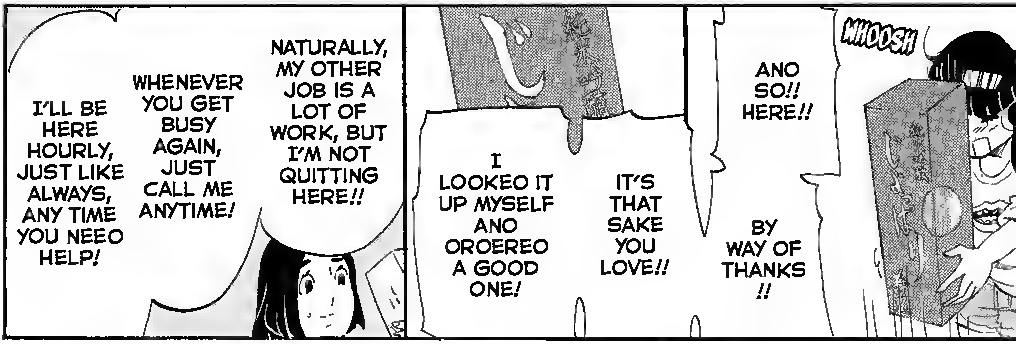
I SAID I HAVE.
BEEN MARRIED.
NO WAY!!
WAIT, HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
25.
WHAT ARE YOU, ONE OF THOSE YOUNG GANG-STERS IN CHIBA?
YOU MEAN YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN DIVORCED AT THAT AGE?!
HEY... HAS THAT BEEN... MADE PUBLIC?
BEATS ME.
PROB-ABLY NOT, RIGHT?
CRACK
BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY KIDS.
SO EVEN IF WORD GOT OUT, IT WOULDN'T BE A BIG–
OH, THAT LOOKS GREAT, SIR.
WOW, YOU'RE AWFULLY YOUNG TO HAVE A STRIKE AGAINST YOU, SONNY.
Wow, what a sur-prise!

THUNK
HUUUH?!
RINKO, YOU'RE SERIOUSLY LEAVING?!
YOU'RE LEAVING US IN THE LURCH THE SECOND YOU GOT A MAN!
WHAP
HERE'S MY MONEY.
THEY'RE HOLDING THE MEETING FOR EPISODE 4 AT OUR OFFICE.
MAMI'S FINALLY COMING IN AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING.
...
I'M GOING HOME.
Huh?!
THUNK
OH REALLY?
THAT EXPLAINS IT.
THAT CLEARS UP EVERYTHING.
ピンポーン
THUNK
THAT'S WHY HE THINKS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
HE'S BEEN MARRIED BEFORE, SO HE THINKS HE'S A VETERAN.
PFFT! IT WAS PROBABLY JUST SOME PLAY MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO KIDS.
AND THEN THEY GOT SEPARATED RIGHT AFTER, SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
TWO IDIOTS GETTING MARRIED AT TWENTY.
THAT'S NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT.

I'M NOT SOME YOUNG, IRRESPONSIBLE CELEBRITY BRAT LIKE YOU.
I'M NOT LIKE YOU.
I'M AIMING FOR A MATURE, GROUNDED MARRIAGE THAT WON'T FAIL.
246
GOOOOD...
...MORNING!!
CHIRP CHIRP
チュン チュン

HUH? WELL ...
W-WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
YOU KNOW HOW I'VE BEEN GOING TO WATCH THE SHOOTS WITH MR. HAYASAKA LATELY? FOR "FALSE MARRIAGE"?
I WENT TO THE SALON YESTERDAY FOR AN IMAGE CHANGE! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD BLACK HAIR!
OH! DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?
HAVE WE MET?
...
HUH.
CAN YOU BE-LIEVE IT?!
SO YOU WENT AND DYED IT... RIGHT AWAY?
EEK!
I WISH I COULD SEE YOU WITH BLACK HAIR, MAMI. I BET IT'D LOOK GREAT ON YOU.
WHEN MR. HAYASAKA SAW THAT ACTRESS YOKO MAKI'S BLACK HAIR, HE SAID...
OH!
...
BEFORE I USE THE OFFICE TODAY...
ANYWAY, RINKO!
FWIP
AHAHA!
AHAHA!
I FIGURED IT MIGHT BE FUN TO GIVE IT A SHOT!
WHEN MR. HAYASAKA SAID HE WANTED TO SEE IT...
BUT I GUESS IT LOOKS WEIRD ON ME, HUH?
I'M NOT WORKING WITH THE SAME FOUNDATION AS THAT ACTRESS!
I MEAN, AS A HARAJUKU GAL, DIDN'T YOU PREFER BLONDE HAIR WITH PINK TIPS?
...ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
WELL, I DID, BUT...

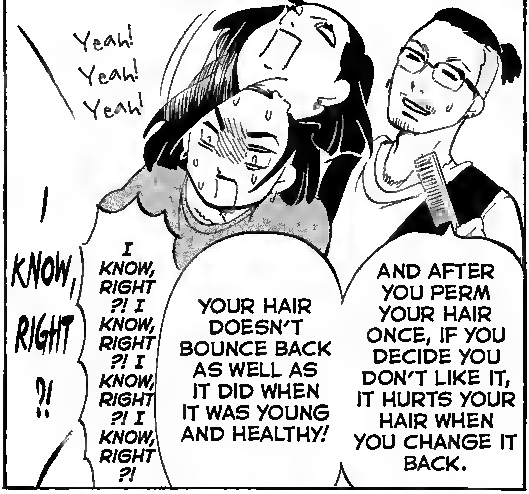

I KNOW I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE IT GOOD FOR SURE.
BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY-THING YOU TAUGHT ME!!
SO PLEASE LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN!
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE GOTTEN A HUMONGOUS CHANCE!
RINKO!
WHOOSH!
NO!
MS. RINKO !!


I'LL BE HERE HOURLY, JUST LIKE ALWAYS, ANY TIME YOU NEEO HELP!
WHENEVER YOU GET BUSY AGAIN, JUST CALL ME ANYTIME!
NATURALLY, MY OTHER JOB IS A LOT OF WORK, BUT I'M NOT QUITTING HERE!!
I LOOKEO IT UP MYSELF ANO OROEREO A GOOD ONE!
IT'S THAT SAKE YOU LOVE!!
ANO SO!! HERE!!
BY WAY OF THANKS !!
WHOOSH

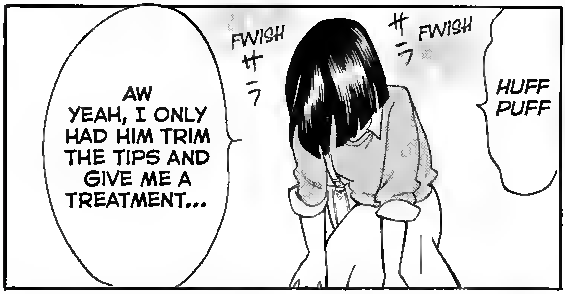
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
YOU GOT A BOYFRIENO, RINKO?!
WHAT ?!
A-ANO GET MAR-RIED.
THINK I'M GOING TO QUIT THIS JOB...
PLUS, I...
NO... I THINK YOU CAN SUPPORT YOURSELF NOW EASILY...
WHIMP
OH. Y-YES ...
WOW! THEN THAT MEANS HE PROPOSEO TO YOU, RIGHT?!
TRYING TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF YOUNGER WOMEN TOO

...
HUH?!
I'LL PAY ALL THE RENT!!
THEN LEND ME THIS OFFICE!!
OKAY?!
AND THEN IF YOU DECIDE TO DO SOME WORK EVERY SO OFTEN, YOU CAN USE IT AS YOU PLEASE!
THEN LEND IT TO ME WHEN YOU DO!
W-WELL, YEAH, MAYBE NOT...
THEN YOU WON'T USE THIS OFFICE ANYMORE!
I MEAN, ONCE YOU GET MARRIED, YOU'LL QUIT WORK AND MOVE IN SOMEWHERE BIGGER WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
I CAN'T MATCH HER.
THEN I'LL HAVE AN OFFICE TO WORK IN WITHOUT PAYING A DEPOSIT, A FINDER'S FEE, OR A MOVING FEE!

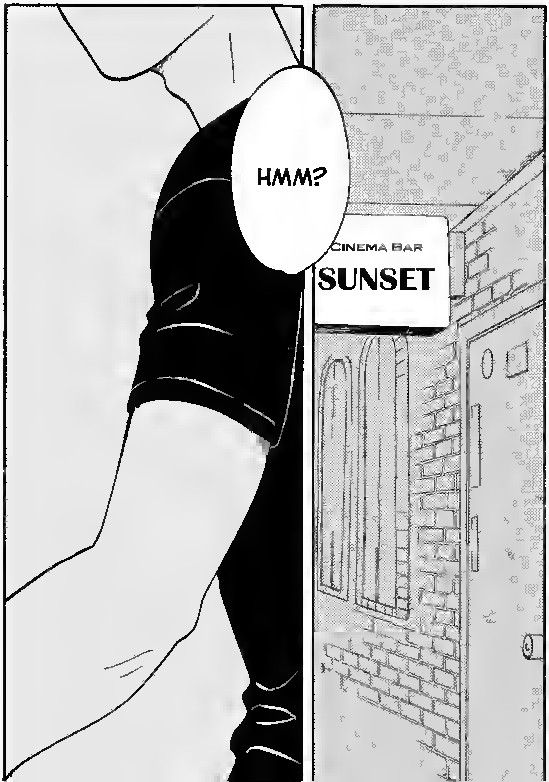
I JUST CAN'T MATCH THE FLEXIBILITY OF THESE YOUNGER GIRLS.
I CAN'T MATCH THAT GREED.
OR THAT CONFIDENCE THAT LET HER ASK TO USE MY OFFICE, KNOWING IT MIGHT TICK ME OFF...
...I CAN'T MATCH THAT EITHER.
THAT GIRL...
...COULD REALLY GO PLACES.
BUT I'VE GOTTA FOLLOW...
...HER EXAMPLE.
I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM, AFTER ALL.
nico HAIR SALON
I'VE GOTTA GET FLEXIBLY AMBITIOUS LIKE MAMI.
CLANG A CLANG
WEL-COME!
NO...
WAIT...
...A...
MINUTE ...

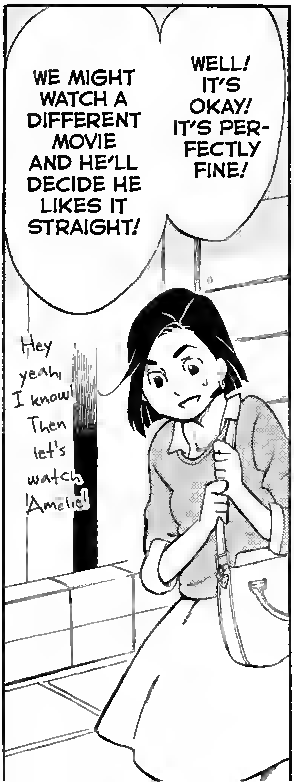

Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!
I KNOW, RIGHT?!
I KNOW, RIGHT?! I KNOW, RIGHT?! I KNOW, RIGHT?! I KNOW, RIGHT?!
YOUR HAIR DOESN'T BOUNCE BACK AS WELL AS IT DID WHEN IT WAS YOUNG AND HEALTHY!
AND AFTER YOU PERM YOUR HAIR ONCE, IF YOU DECIDE YOU DON'T LIKE IT, IT HURTS YOUR HAIR WHEN YOU CHANGE IT BACK.

The whole thing!
I KNOW, RIGHT?!
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD CALL IT OFF?
RIGHT?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WEAR MY HAIR LIKE THAT, RIGHT?! YEAH!! NO WAY IN HECK!


AW YEAH, I ONLY HAD HIM TRIM THE TIPS AND GIVE ME A TREATMENT...
FWISH
FWISH
HUFF PUFF

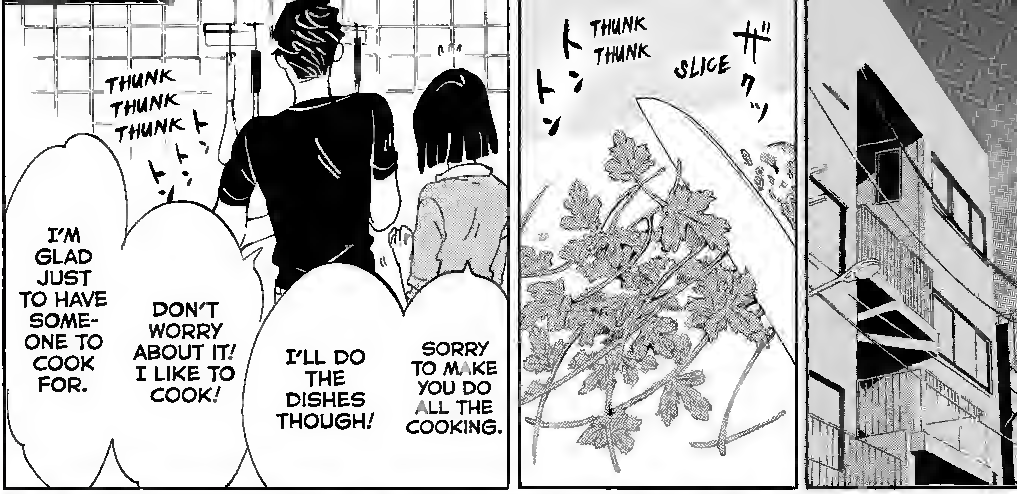
CLING-A-CLANG-A-GONE
MMMM
Thanks for coming!

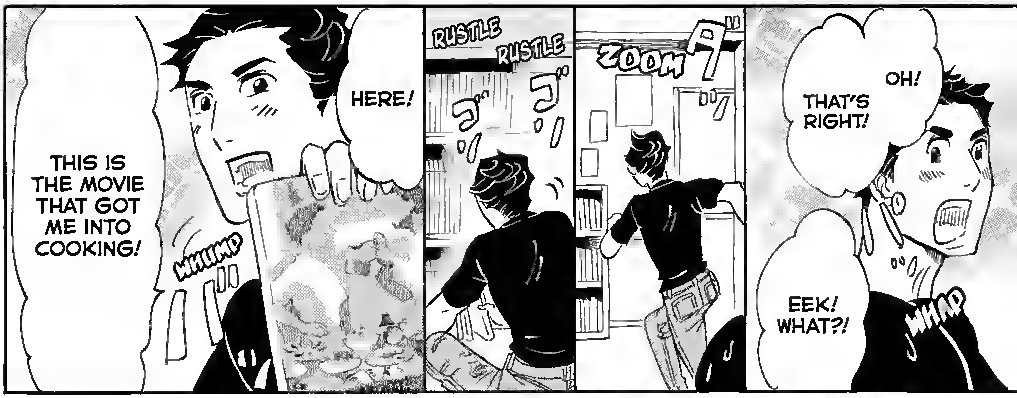

HMM?
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET


WELL! IT'S OKAY! IT'S PERFECTLY FINE!
WE MIGHT WATCH A DIFFERENT MOVIE AND HE'LL DECIDE HE LIKES IT STRAIGHT!
Hey yeah, I know! Then let's watch Amelie!

Y-YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT...
I WAS... SO BUSY TODAY... HAHA...
OH, I SEE. I SEE.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GO TO THE SALON?
I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU. TO CELEBRATE US.
RUSTLE
OH, HEY! HERE...
N-NO, I'M SORRY TOO...
PHEW
SORRY, YOU KNOW, FOR MAKING SUCH A SELFISH REQUEST.
HERE IT IS.
HAVE YOU SEEN IT?
WHAT COULD IT BE?
HUH?!
BA-DUM!

CAN YOU STAY UNTIL THE BAR CLOSES TONIGHT, RINKO?
YEP!
I TOTALLY CAN'T WAIT! I'LL WATCH IT AS SOON AS I CAN!
WHAT? REALLY?!
YEAH, DEFINITELY WATCH IT!
THAT'S ONE OF MY TOP FILMS FROM 2014!
GREAT!
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT!
TH-THANKS!
WHAT?
WHAP
OH!
WEL-COME!
YOU CAN MAKE THOSE?! THAT'S AWE-SOME !!
I'LL MAKE FRESH SPRING ROLLS AT MY PLACE!
THEN LET'S GO HOME TO-GETHER!
HEH-CHUNK
I'M IN HEAVEN ...
HEHEH ...


THUNK THUNK THUNK
I'M GLAD JUST TO HAVE SOME-ONE TO COOK FOR.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I LIKE TO COOK!
I'LL DO THE DISHES THOUGH!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU DO ALL THE COOKING.
THUNK THUNK
SLICE

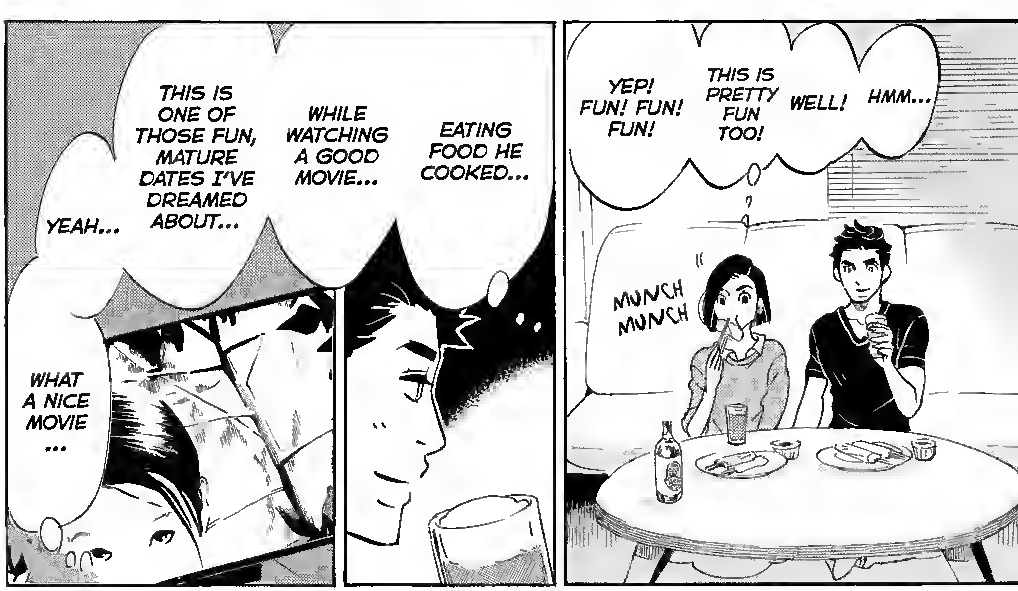

THIS IS THE MOVIE THAT GOT ME INTO COOKING!
HERE!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
ZOOM
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
EEK! WHAT?!

HUH?!
I GUESS?
I-I THINK I'M GOOD FOR NOW...
ACTU-ALLY...
OH... YEAH...
YOU DON'T MIND WATCHING IT WITH SUBTITLES, RIGHT?
YOU CAN WATCH WHILE I COOK!
BEEP
KER-CHUNK

THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT I'D PREFER!
YEP!
OH YEAH! I GUESS SO!
OH, REALLY?
THAT'S ALL.
AND TALK AND STUFF.
I'D RATHER WATCH YOU COOK...
OH, I MEAN, SINCE WE'RE HERE TOGETHER...
ARGH!
THAT LOOKS SO GOOD!!
WOW!
THAT'S AMAZING!
THEN I'LL MESMERIZE YOU WITH MY BEAUTIFUL KNIFE SKILLS! HUP!
ALL RIGHT!
SHUNK SHUNK
WELL, GREEN PAPAYAS AREN'T SOLD AROUND HERE.
OH, BUT THE SALAD THAT APPEARED IN "THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA"...
TWITCH
WHAT'S THAT? ANOTHER MOVIE?
OH, SORRY.
...
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE INGREDIENTS.
VIETNAMESE COOKING IS ACTUALLY PRETTY SIMPLE.
SO YOU ACTUALLY CAN MAKE THESE AT HOME!

I'VE GOT THE DVD.
WANNA WATCH IT?
...NO...
THUNK
HUH?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT?

JING-A-LING
THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA


YEAH...
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE FUN, MATURE DATES I'VE DREAMED ABOUT...
WHILE WATCHING A GOOD MOVIE...
EATING FOOD HE COOKED...
WHAT A NICE MOVIE ...
YEP! FUN! FUN! FUN!
THIS IS PRETTY FUN TOO!
WELL!
HMM...
MUNCH MUNCH

...
UM...
...
SHH!
THAT BOY'S CUTE!
AHA!
BECAUSE IT'S A BAR WHERE YOU HAVE FUN TALKING ABDUT MDVIES?
BECAUSE IT WAS AT WORK?
BECAUSE I WAS A CUSTDMER AND IT WAS THE BAR?
YOU KNDW ...
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
...WE TALKED WHILE WE WATCHED, DIDN'T WE?
BUT AT THE BAR...
...I GUESS?
SD HE'S DNE OF THOSE "ND TALK-ING DURING THE MDVIE" PEDPLE...
YARGH !!
BUT I BET HE'D BE DISAP-POINTED ...
HE'S A NICE GUY, SD HE PRDBABLY WOULDN'T GET MAD ...
IF I DID FALL ASLEEP ...
SHUNK
I'M GETTING SLEEPY...
THIS MOVIE'S KIND OF BORING...
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D LIKE IT IF I FELL ASLEEP...

SQUEEZE
DON'T SLEEP, RINKO! STAB YOURSELF WITH KAORI'S NAILS! DON'T SLEEP! DON'T SLEEP! DON'T SLEEP!
BEAR WITH IT! BEAR WITH IT!
YOU CAN'T LET THIS GUY GET AWAY!
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU EVEN MET SUCH A HIGH-SPEC GUY!
AND A MIRACLE HE FELL FOR A 33-YEAR-OLD LIKE YOU!
YOU'VE GOT THREE BALLS WITH TWO OUTS ANO IT'S COMIN' IN STRAIGHT AS CAN BE!
ZOOM
IF YOU CAN'T HIT A HOMER OFF THIS, HOW CAN YOU FACE THE TOKYO OLYMPICS?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL! CAREFUL!
TAKE THIS BALL CAREFULLY!
KA-DING
YEEEAH!
THE WHAT-IFFERS' CLEANUP HITTER KAMATA HAS DONE IT!
IT'S A GAME-CHANGING HOME-RUN!
LIVE
COMMENTARY
THIS IS HER FIRST HOMERUN SINCE SHE TRIED OUT FROM THE INOUSTRIAL LEAGUES AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE WHAT-IFFERS !!
SHE SHOWEO THOSE YOUNG #1 ORAFT PICK HIGH SCHOOL GRAOS WHAT THIRTY-SOMETHINGS ARE MAOE OF!

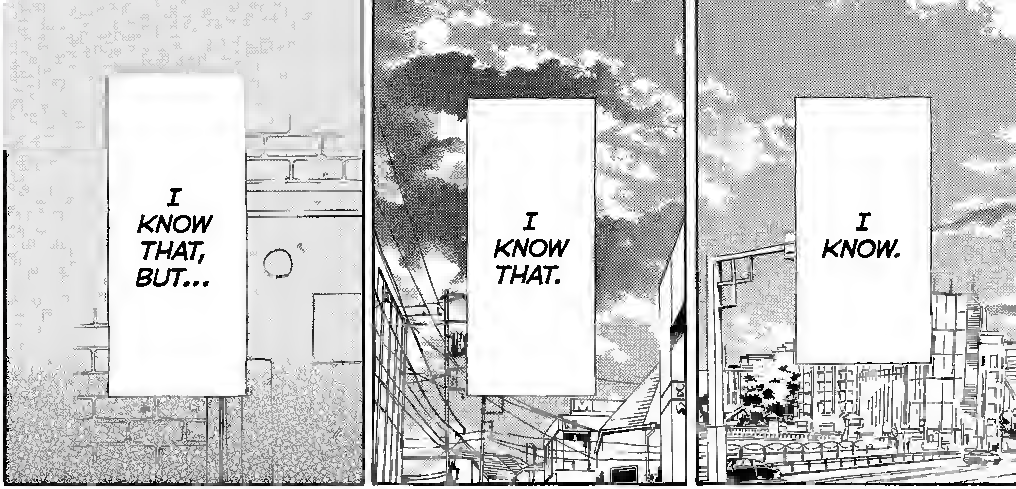
NO, I'M SORRY. IT'S ALL BECAUSE I SAID WE SHOULD WATCH THIS MOVIE...
YEAH, YOU DID DRINK A LOT AT MY BAR EARLIER. OF COURSE YOU'D BE SLEEPY.
IT WAS THE ALCO-HOL THAT DID IT...
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO TO SLEEP...
I...
AH... OH LORD! I'M SORRY ...
SORRY.
WERE YOU TIRED?
GASP
RINKO?
I'LL LET YOU SLEEP ON MY ARM ALL NIGHT...
OKAY?
Y-YEAH!
YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT, CAN'T YOU?
ALL RIGHT! THEN LET'S GO TO BED FOR THE NIGHT!
(BIG LIE)
I ALWAYS GET SLEEPY WHEN I DRINK!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! THE ALCOHOL!
HE TREATS ME LIKE A GIRL.
HE'S THE ULTIMATE BOY-FRIEND.
NOT AT ALL LIKE HIM.
YEAH, HE'S SO NICE.

NN...
THAT SMELLS GOOD...
OH. YOU AWAKE?
BREAK-FAST IS ALMOST READY!
RUSTLE
CLACK CLACK CLACK
CHIRP
CHIRP
WOW ...
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
EGGS BENE-DICT.
DO YOU LIKE THAT?
HUH ?!
WOW!
YOU CAN MAKE THAT TOO?
IT'S SIMPLE! EASY AS PIE!
CLACK CLACK
HERE.
DIG IN.
IT LOOKS GREAT!
WHEN I SAW "SOME-WHERE," IT MADE ME WANT TO MAKE IT.
SO I STARTED PRACTIC-ING AND PERFECTED MY HOL-LANDAISE SAUCE.
...
WOW!
YOU DID!
WASN'T THAT INCRED-IBLE?
LIKE, "YOU CAN SERIOUSLY MAKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE 11"?!
CLACK CLACK
RINKO.
THE YOLK'S STILL RUNNY!
WOW.
OH...

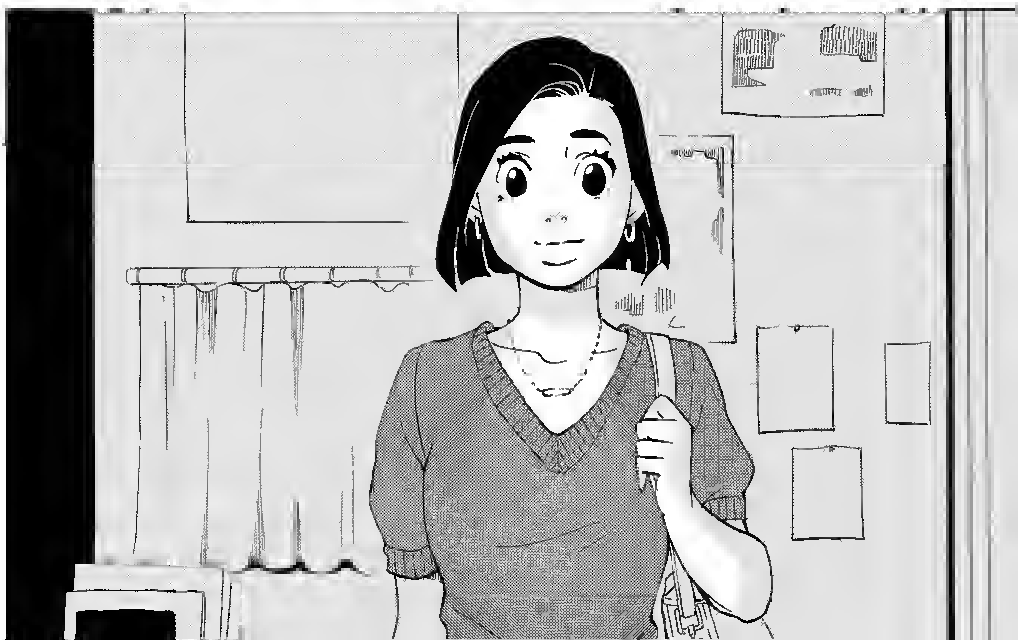
THAT MOVIE.
DID YOU SEE IT?
YEAH.
I... GUESS SO?
OH! THIS IS GREAT!
OH, RINKO?
CLINK
CLINK
I'LL BET ALL THE FEMALE SCREEN-WRITERS LOVE HER!
I WAS SURE YOU FOL-LOWED SOFIA COPPOLA!
OH! REALLY?! I KNEW IT!
...I DID?
THINK ...
I...
NONBEE
DO YOU HAVE TIME TO GO TO THE SALON TODAY?
CLINK
CLINK カチャ カチャ

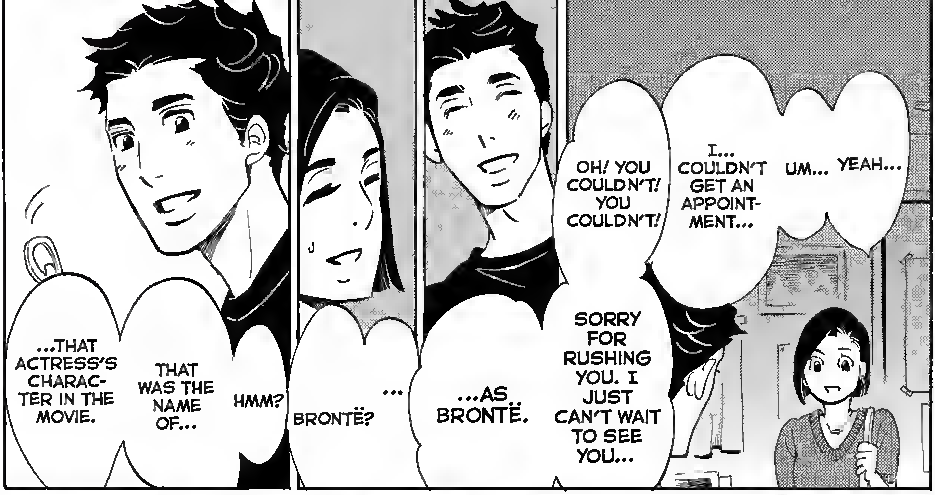
THIS IS KIND OF... A LITTLE...
TH-
...GIVEN UP ON YOU GETTING THAT PERM?
SO HE STILL HASN'T ...
TOO MUCH?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS HOBBY ALSO BEING HIS JOB?
I MEAN, HE DOES RUN A MOVIE BAR, RIGHT?
SO WHAT? YOU CAN BEAR THAT.
HUH?
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
WELL, HE KIND OF TALKS ABOUT MOVIES ALL THE TIME. AND THAT WOULD BE FINE AND ALL, BUT HE TALKS LIKE I'VE SEEN ALL THESE MOVIES TOO, AND IT'S KIND OF ROUGH.
OH...
WELL, THERE'S THAT TOO... THERE'S THE HAIR THING TOO...
BUT, LIKE, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
WHAT IS IT?! SUM IT UP REAL QUICK FOR US!

YARGH!
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS DEAL WITH THAT PART...
NO! I KNOW! YOU'RE RIGHT!
IN FACT, I CAN JUST GET USED TO IT!
THEN DEAL WITH IT!
NOTHING.
HE'S SWEET, HE COOKS, HE KEEPS HIS PLACE CLEAN.
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH HIM BESIDES ALL THIS MOVIE TALK?
YEAH! HE'S HAPPY HE FINALLY FOUND A WOMAN HE CAN TALK TO!
YOU'RE A SCREENWRITER, SO HE'S PROBABLY TALKING TO YOU ABOUT MOVIES BECAUSE HE'S HAPPY!
I KNOW! I KNOW! I KNOW THAT TOO!
MOVIES ARE LIKE GENERAL EDUCATION, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT ONE OF THOSE TRAIN NUTS OR IDOL SUPERFANS!
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S PRESSURING YOU INTO SOME WEIRDO HOBBY OR ANYTHING. IT'S JUST MOVIES!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY? YOU CAN WATCH ANY AMOUNT OF MOVIES WITH HIM, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. AND YOU LIKE MOVIES TOO. ISN'T THAT WHY YOU STARTED WRITING?
IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR MAN HAVING A HOBBY OR TWO, YOU'LL NEVER GET MARRIED.
UGH...
I KNOW THAT ALREADY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME...
BUT, BUT, BUT!
BUT! BUT!!
YEAH, I KNOW ALL THAT TOO!!
RINKO.
YOU'RE ACTING TOO SELFISH.

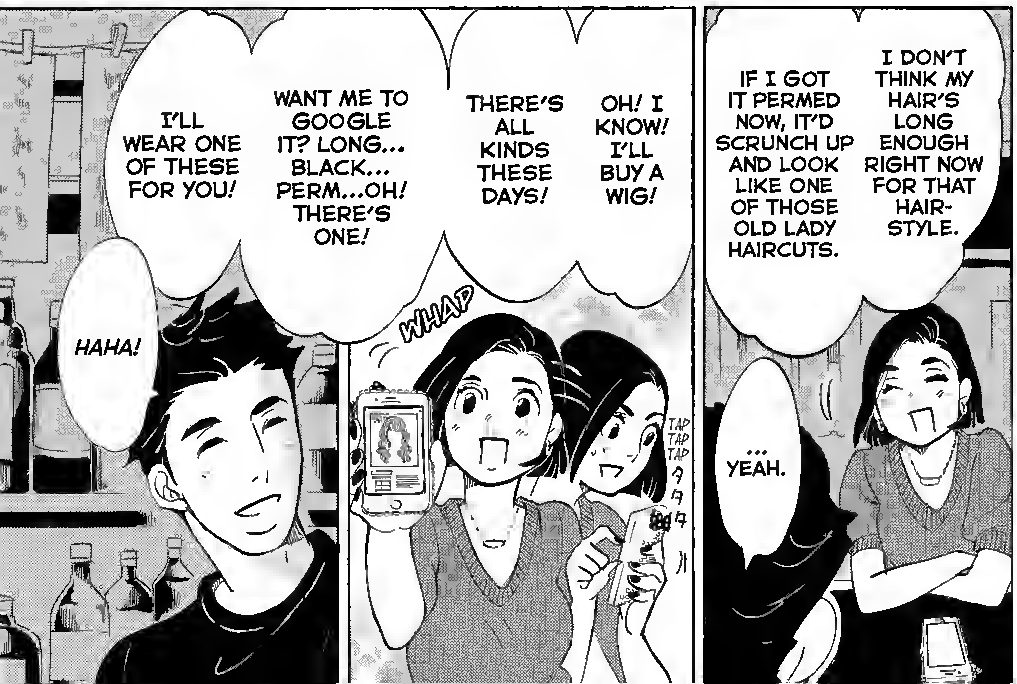

I KNOW THAT, BUT...
I KNOW THAT.
I KNOW.

YOUR HAIR...
HUH?




...THAT ACTRESS'S CHARACTER IN THE MOVIE.
THAT WAS THE NAME OF...
HMM?
BRONTË?
...
...AS... BRONTË.
SORRY FOR RUSHING YOU. I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU...
OH! YOU COULDN'T! YOU COULDN'T!
I... COULDN'T GET AN APPOINTMENT...
UM... YEAH...

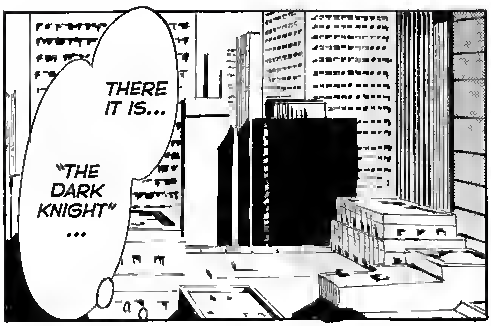
HMM?
I WAS THINKING.
HEY.
THUNK
...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

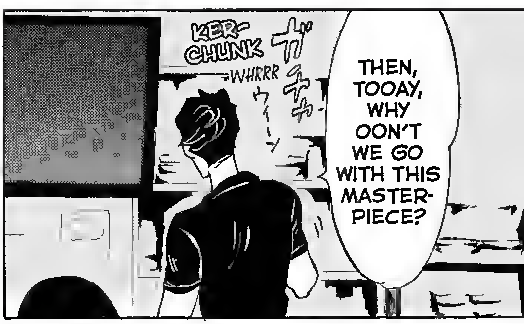

I'LL WEAR ONE OF THESE FOR YOU!
WANT ME TO GOOGLE IT? LONG... BLACK... PERM...OH! THERE'S ONE!
THERE'S ALL KINDS THESE DAYS!
OH! I KNOW! I'LL BUY A WIG!
HAHA!
WHAP
TAP TAP TAP
IF I GOT IT PERMED NOW, IT'D SCRUNCH UP AND LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE OLD LADY HAIRCUTS.
I DON'T THINK MY HAIR'S LONG ENOUGH RIGHT NOW FOR THAT HAIRSTYLE.
...YEAH.

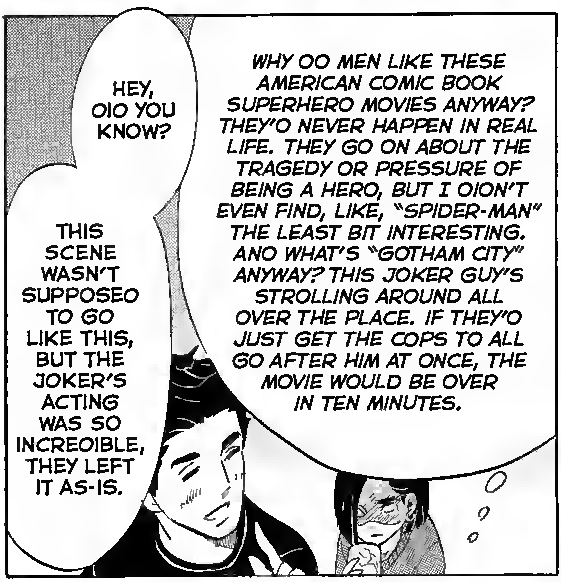
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR.
I KNOW.
SAY, RINKO.
I REALLY DO KNOW.
HOW WAS THAT DVD I LENT YOU YESTER DAY?
SORRY.
I HAVEN'T WATCHED IT YET.
OH! YOU HAVEN'T !
HA HA!
NOPE! SORRY!
THAT'S FINE! THAT'S FINE! WATCH IT WHEN YOU HAVE TIME!
ALL RIGHT! THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT TO WATCH TODAY?

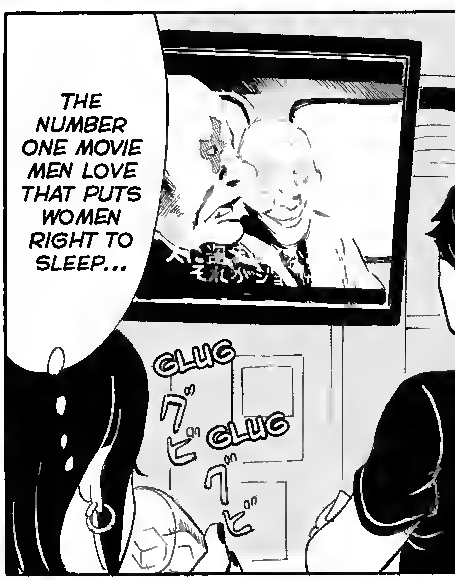
...
HMM...
I WANT TO WATCH THE "SEX AND THE CITY" MOVIE!
HUH?!
SORRY. WE DON'T KEEP ANY TV STUFF HERE.
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE MOVIE! THE FILM THEY MADE BASED ON THE TV SERIES!
THERE WERE TWO OF THEM!
SORRY. I DON'T WATCH MOVIES LIKE THAT.
...
OH.
I GUESS MEN DON'T REALLY WATCH THAT KIND OF MOVIE, HUH?
I KNOW.
NOPE.
I REALLY OO KNOW.
YEAH.

BUT I CAN'T BEAR IT.

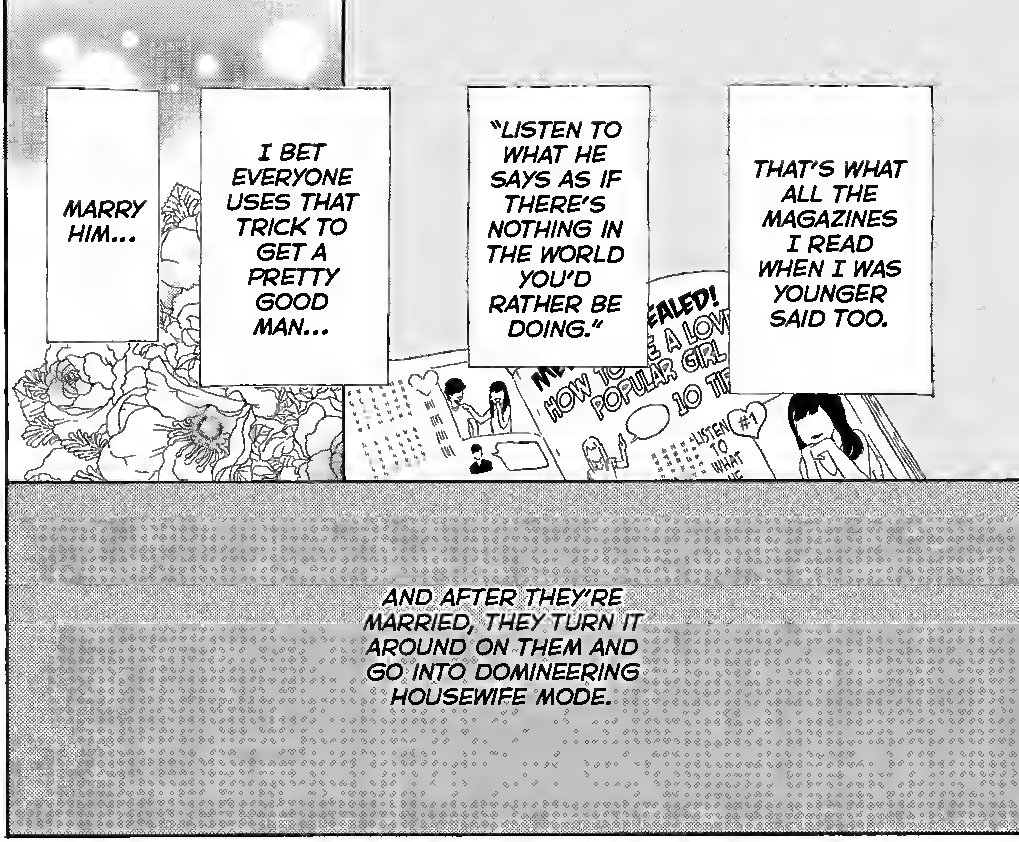





HEY, OIO YOU KNOW?
THIS SCENE WASN'T SUPPOSEO TO GO LIKE THIS, BUT THE JOKER'S ACTING WAS SO INCREOIBLE, THEY LEFT IT AS-IS.
WHY OO MEN LIKE THESE AMERICAN COMIC BOOK SUPERHERO MOVIES ANYWAY? THEY'O NEVER HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE. THEY GO ON ABOUT THE TRAGEDY OR PRESSURE OF BEING A HERO, BUT I OION'T EVEN FIND, LIKE, "SPIDER-MAN" THE LEAST BIT INTERESTING. ANO WHAT'S "GOTHAM CITY" ANYWAY? THIS JOKER GUY'S STROLLING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE. IF THEY'O JUST GET THE COPS TO ALL GO AFTER HIM AT ONCE, THE MOVIE WOULD BE OVER IN TEN MINUTES.



HAD I KNOWN IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS, I WOULD'VE GONE TO NONBEE TO DRINK HOPPY AND CHAT WITH KAORI AND KOYUKI...
SIGH. WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
I'VE GOTTA DRINK.
GULP
GULP
GULP
AH, IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T BEAR WATCH-ING THIS FOR TWO HOURS.
WOW. REALLY. (MONO-TONE)
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN 100 TIMES MORE FUN THAN THIS.
OR MARATHON MY "SEX AND THE CITY" DVDS AT HOME.
ALWAYS WORRY ABOUT HIS NEEDS.
TALK ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
NO MATTER HOW BORING IT IS, ALWAYS ACT INTERESTED IN WHAT HE'S SAYING.
THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE GOING OUT WITH A MAN.
OH.
BUT NOW I REMEM-BER.


MARRY HIM...
I BET EVERYONE USES THAT TRICK TO GET A PRETTY GOOD MAN...
"LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS AS IF THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WORLD YOU'D RATHER BE DOING."
THAT'S WHAT ALL THE MAGAZINES I READ WHEN I WAS YOUNGER SAID TOO.
AND AFTER THEY'RE MARRIED, THEY TURN IT AROUND ON THEM AND GO INTO DOMINEERING HOUSEWIFE MODE.

AND THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE CALLS "A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS."

THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T GET MARRIED.
I KNOW THAT, BUT I JUST CAN'T BEAR IT.
THERE YOU ARE...
THAT MAKEUP LOOKS PERFECT ON YOU.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S A NICE PARODY OF HITOSHI UEKI'S "SUDARA BUSHI" YOU'VE CREATED?
LOOM
SUI SUI SUDARA RATTA SURA SURA SUI SUI SU-I
I KNOW IT'S SELFISH!
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY OR THE STRENGTH TO KEEP UP A FAKE SMILE AS I LIE TO MYSELF.
HAHA!
WELL, THIS IS SO BORING.
AND NOW THAT I'VE BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY AT WORK, I DON'T FEEL LIKE WATCHING MOVIES ANYWAY.
BWA-HA!
SHIT! HOW SELFISH!
YOU SELFISH OLD HAG!
BWA-HA!
SO?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THIS ONE'S NOT GONNA WORK OUT EITHER?
ARE YOU GIVING UP? WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

Isn't it a shame to let him slip by? What if? What if?
BUT DIDN'T YOU DO THAT WITH PLENTY OF GREAT GUYS BACK WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG? WHAT IF? WHAT IF?
I KNOW HE'S A GREAT GUY.
BUT BEING AROUND HIM IS GONNA BE SO EXHAUST-ING.
RINKO.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "COMPRO-MISE"?
...
I CAN COMPRO-MISE ON OTHER THINGS...
BUT...
IF HE WERE FAT, OR BALD, OR POOR, OR A SHABBY DRESSER...
IF WE CAN'T CARRY ON A CONVERSATION, THAT'S TOO MUCH...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN COM-PROMISE ON THAT POINT.
I MEAN, FOR HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS...ISN'T THAT THE CORE?
MUTTER MUTTER
YEP! THIS SCENE IS THE "CORE" OF THE WHOLE FILM!
...
MR. OKUDA ...
IF I DIDN'T LIKE MOVIES... WOULD YOU STILL HAVE ASKED ME OUT?
HMM?
HA HA!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? ARE YOU TIPSY?
GIVE ME A SERIOUS ANSWER, PLEASE ...
...WELL, I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU EVEN IF YOU HATED MOVIES.

YOU AND I... GOT MARRIED ...
IF...
THEN...
YEP!
PAT
PLUS, THAT WAY, I'D HAVE SHOWING YOU 300 MOVIES A YEAR TO TURN YOU INTO A FILM NUT TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
THAT'S MY DREAM...
WE'LL BUILD A HOME THEATER IN OUR PLACE AND WATCH ONE MOVIE TOGETHER A NIGHT!
BEAR WITH THIS AND WIN THE GOLD MEDAL! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
BEAR WITH IT, RINKO!
WAVE
CAN I BEAR IT?
DOESN'T THAT SOUND FUN?
AND EVERY YEAR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, WE'LL COME UP WITH OUR TOP 30 OF THE YEAR LIST!

I CAN...

...NOT BEAR IT.

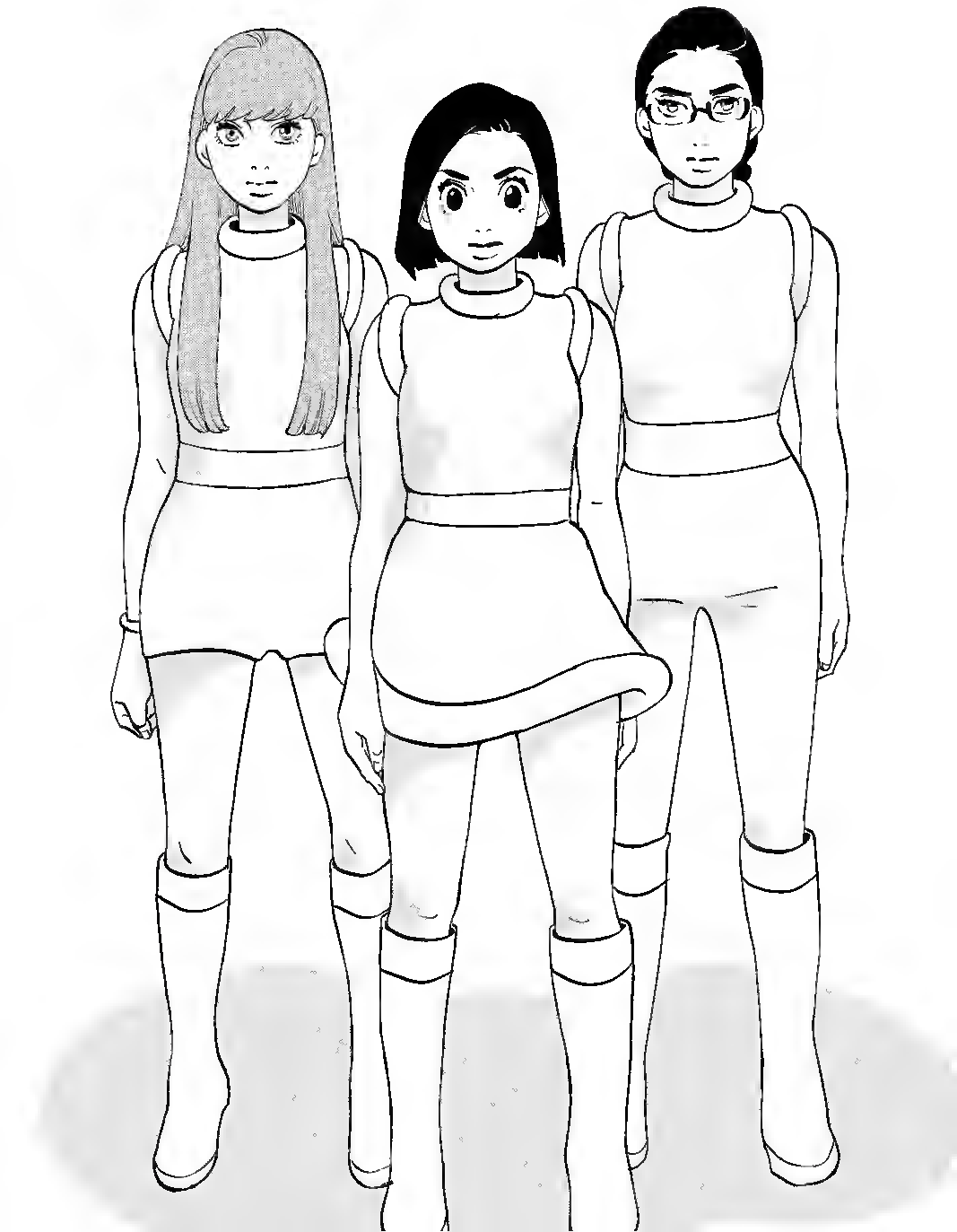
I CAN'T MAKE A TOP 30 LIST WITH A GUY WHO REJECTS "SEX AND THE CITY."
WATCHING THAT SERIES IS PRETTY MUCH WHAT MADE ME WANT TO BECOME A SCREEN-WRITER.
MEN ARE STUPID.
THEIR VALUES ARE DIFFERENT FROM WOMEN'S.

I KNOW THAT.
I KNOW.

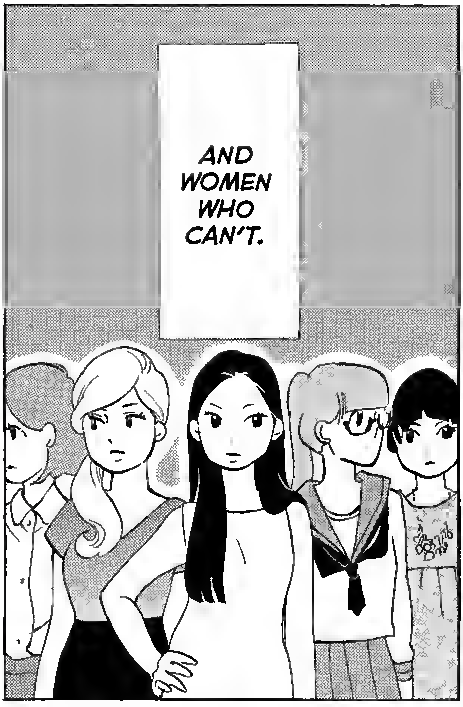
I KNOW THAT, BUT I CAN'T BEAR IT.

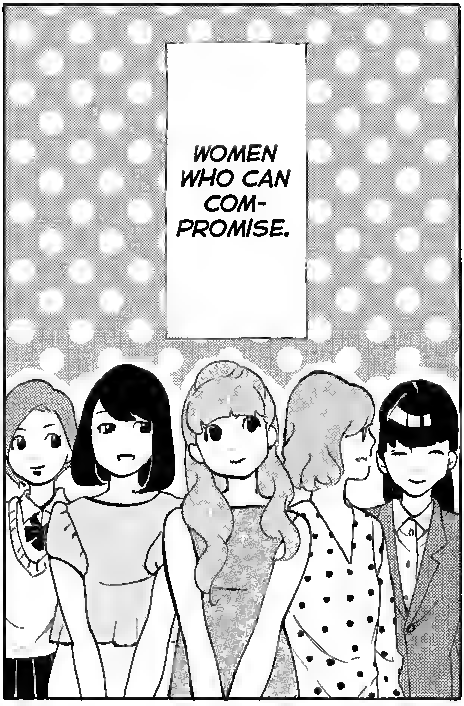
JUST CALL ME THE 21ST CENTURY SUDARA WOMAN AND LAUGH.

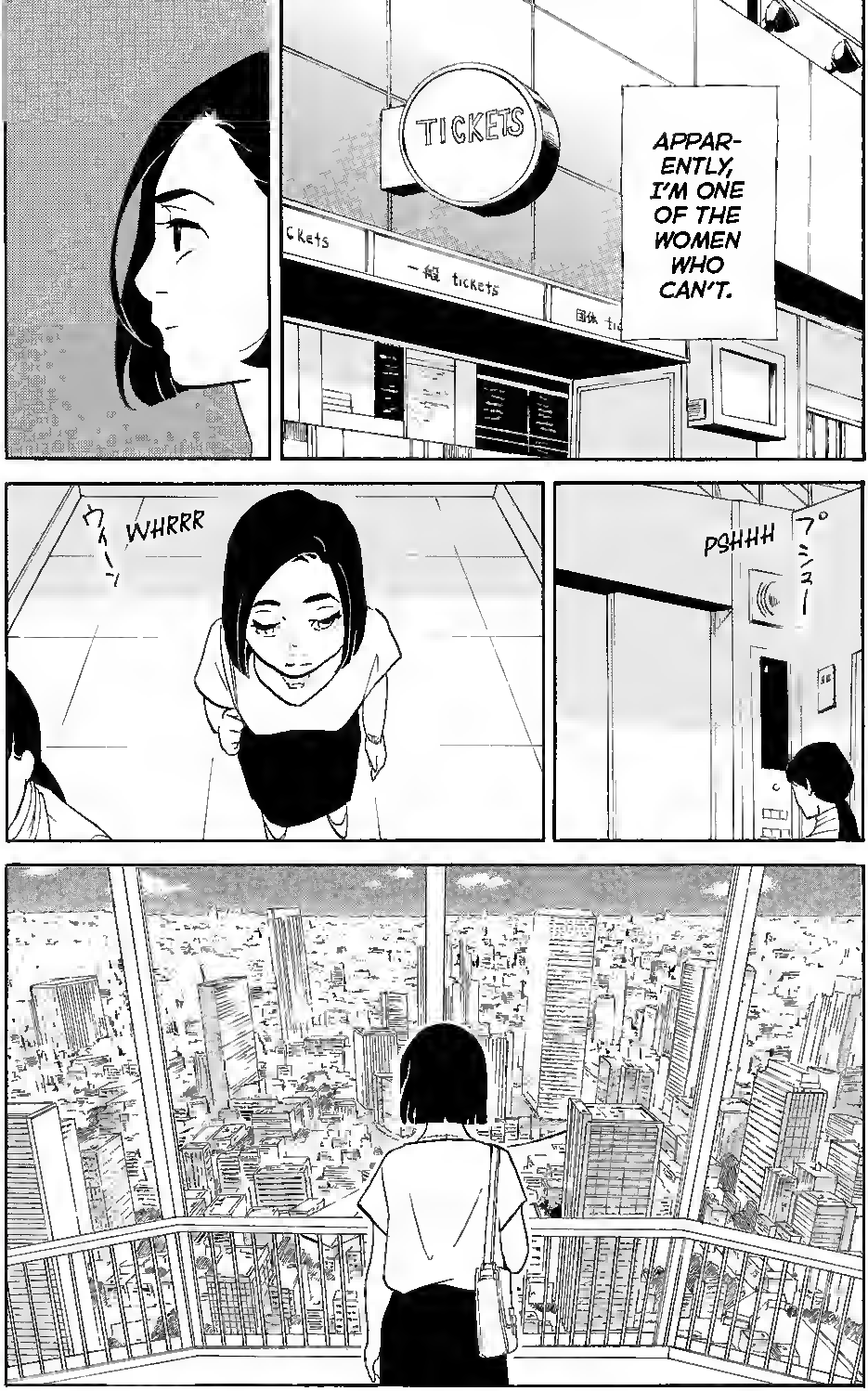
ACT 13 TIME MACHINE WOMEN

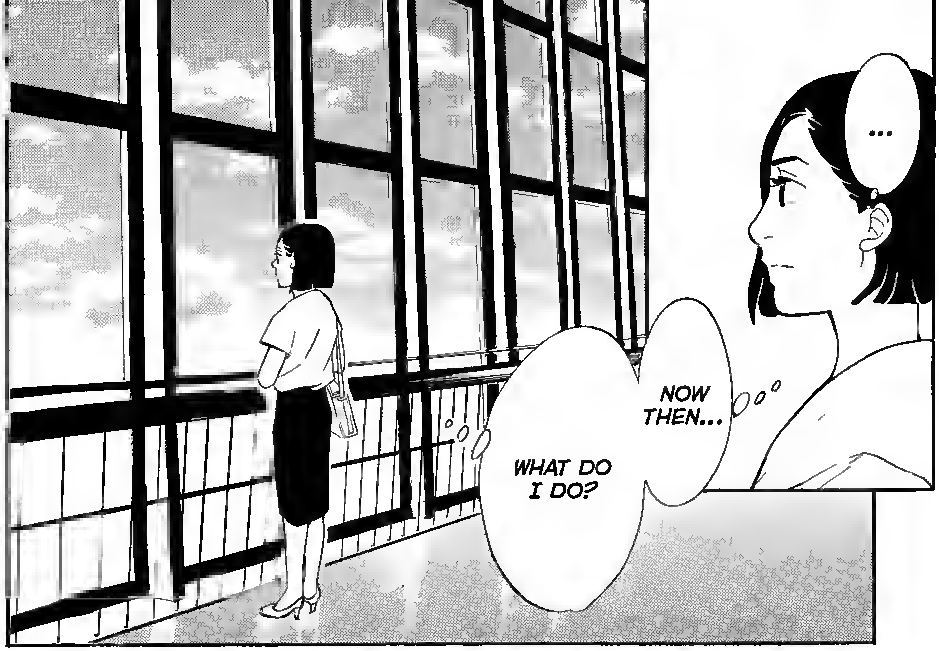


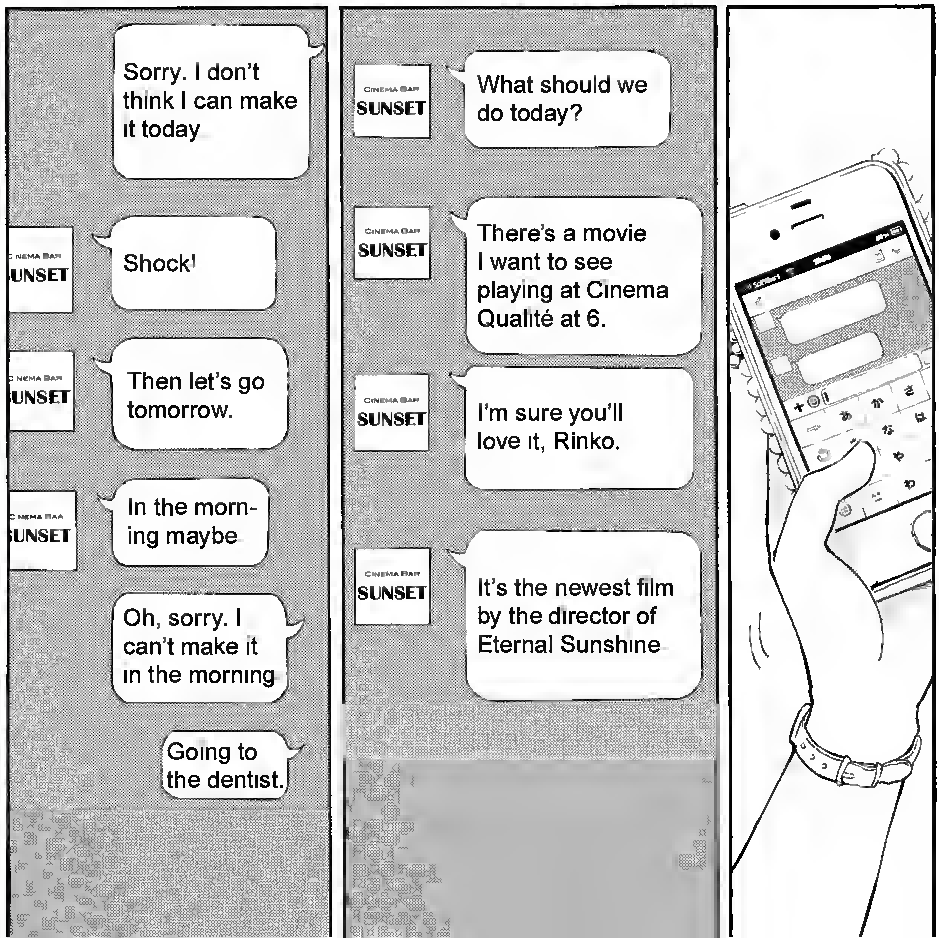
YOU CAN DIVIDE THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD INTO TWO TYPES:

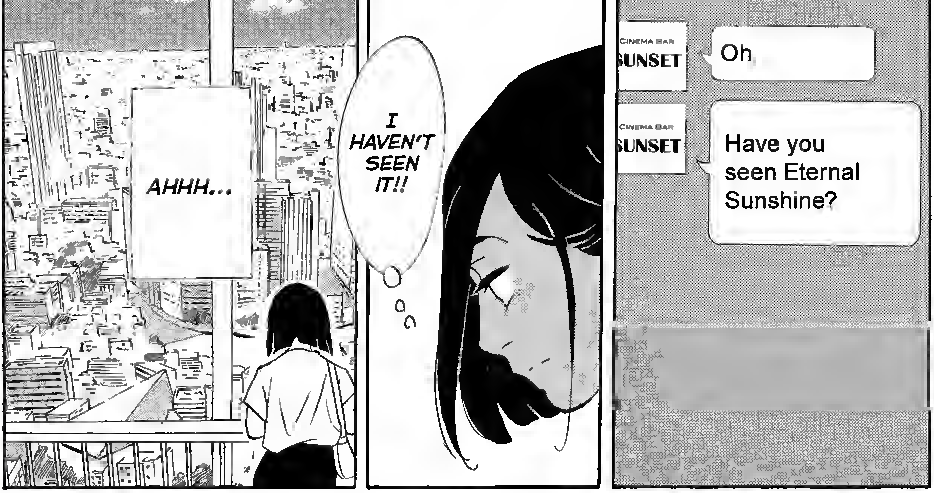

AND WOMEN WHO CAN'T.

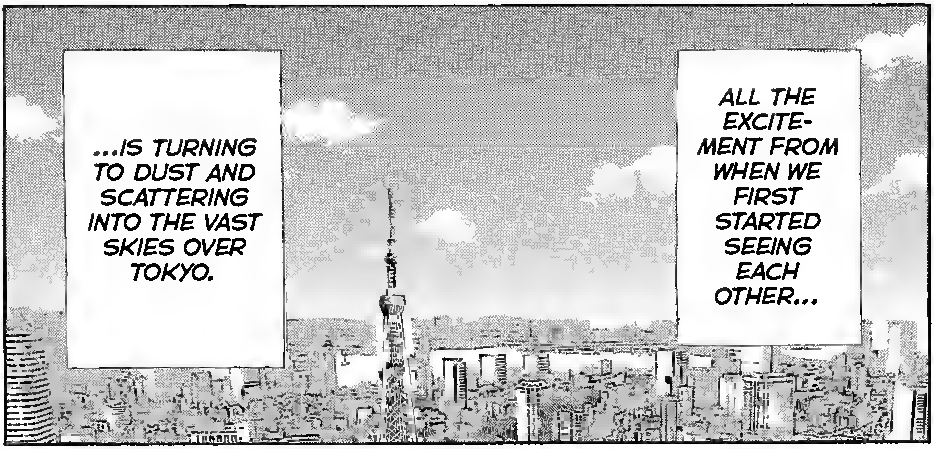

WOMEN WHO CAN COM-PROMISE.

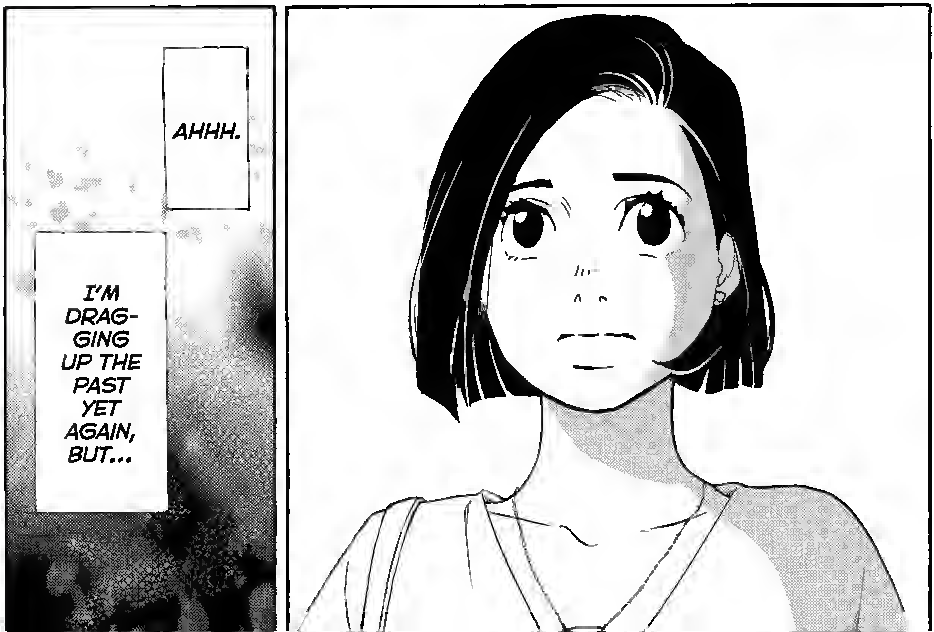

TICKETS
APPAR-
ENTLY,
I'M ONE
OF THE
WOMEN
WHO
CAN'T.
WHRRR
PSHHH


...
NOW THEN...
WHAT DO I DO?

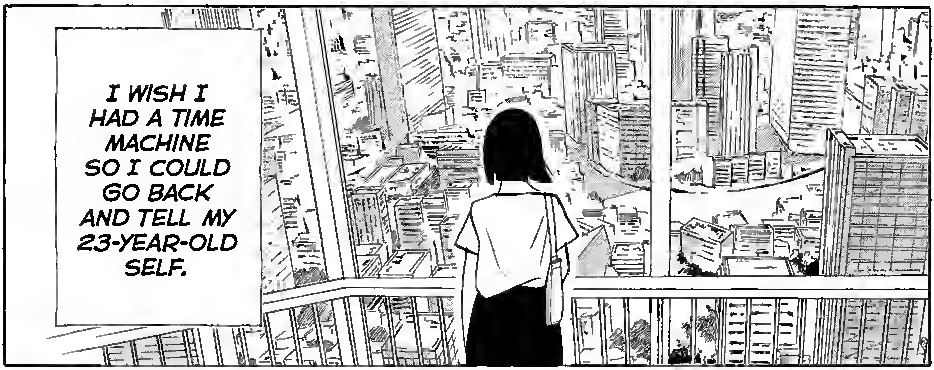

Sorry. I don't think I can make it today
Shock!
Then let's go tomorrow.
In the morning maybe
Oh, sorry. I can't make it in the morning
Going to the dentist.
CINEMA BAR SUNSET
What should we do today?
There's a movie I want to see playing at Cinema Qualité at 6.
I'm sure you'll love it, Rinko.
It's the newest film by the director of Eternal Sunshine

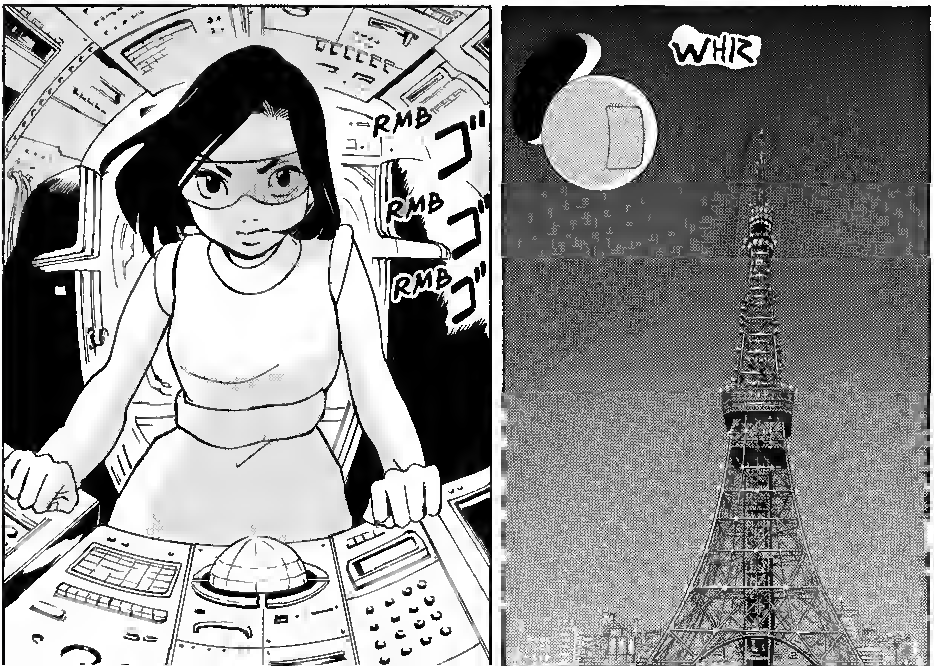

AHHH...
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT!!
CINEMA BAR SUNSET
Oh
CINEMA BAR SUNSET
Have you seen Eternal Sunshine?


...IS TURNING TO DUST AND SCATTERING INTO THE VAST SKIES OVER TOKYO.
ALL THE EXCITE-MENT FROM WHEN WE FIRST STARTED SEEING EACH OTHER...


AHHH.
I'M DRAG-GING UP THE PAST YET AGAIN, BUT...

BUT HE WOULDN'T TRY TO FORCE ALL HIS MOVIE KNOWLEDGE ON HIS GIRLFRIEND.
HE'S IN THE TV INDUSTRY, SO HE MUST KNOW A LOT ABOUT MOVIES TOO.
I SHOULD'VE GONE OUT WITH MR. HAYASAKA BACK THEN.

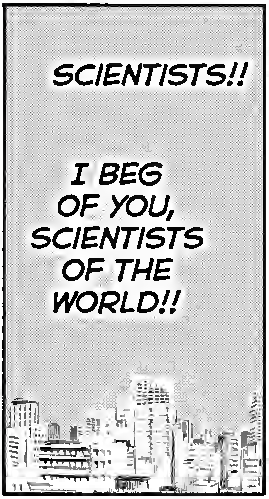

I WISH I HAD A TIME MACHINE SO I COULD GO BACK AND TELL MY 23-YEAR-OLD SELF.

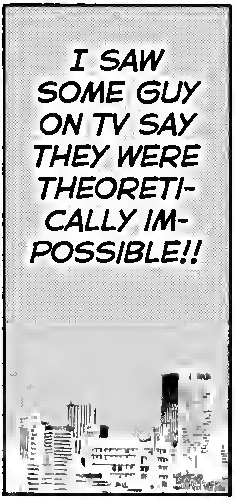

RMB
RMB
RMB
WHIR

WHUMP
I'M THE 33-YEAR-OLD YOU FROM TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
WHA ?!
HUH?!
RIN-KOOO !!
ヒュー
WHIZ
I'M TELLING YOU THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD:
GO WITH HIM!!
HUH? BUT...
HE'S SO SHABBY, AND JUST LOOK AT THE RING...
WOOSH
HUUUH?!
BUT I'M STILL 23! THAT'S TOO EARLY TO SETTLE!
THINK OF ALL THE NICE MEN I MIGHT STILL MEET...
GRAB
SETTLE.
MISSY.
HUH?!

WHACK
YOU STUPID LITTLE BRAAAAAAT!!
HIDE-BU!
RINKO! ARE YOU OKAY?!
SEE?! LOOK HOW KIND HE IS!
JUST LOOK HOW KIND!
WHAP
WHY CAN'T YOU GO WITH HIM?!
LISTEN UP!!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE YOUNG FOREVER!!
TIME NEVER STOPS FLOWING !!
NO ONE CAN STOP IT!!
...ALL RIGHT...
STAGGER
MR. HAYASAKA!! I'LL ACCEPT THIS RING!
THANK YOU, RINKO. I'LL MAKE YOU THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
WHOO-HOO!
GET A ROOM, YOU TWO!
IF MY FUTURE SELF IS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT IT, I'LL MAKE DO WITH HIM.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO COM-PROMISE !!

THEY HAVEN'T BEEN INVENTED!!
WAIT. THERE ARE NO TIME MACHINES!!


SCIENTISTS!!
I BEG OF YOU, SCIENTISTS OF THE WORLD!!


I SAW SOME GUY ON TV SAY THEY WERE THEORETI-CALLY IM-POSSIBLE!!

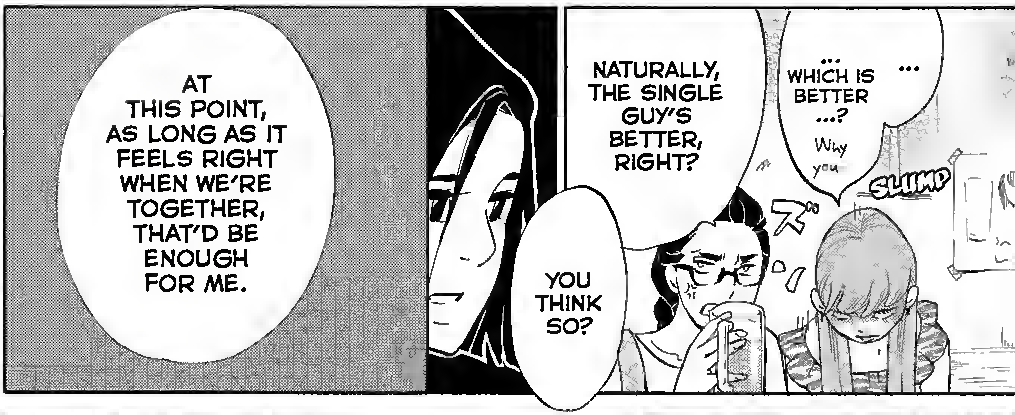
AND THERE'S NO SIGN THEY WILL BE ANYTIME SOON!!

PLEASE INVENT A TIME MACHINE FOR US WHAT-IF GIRLS!!

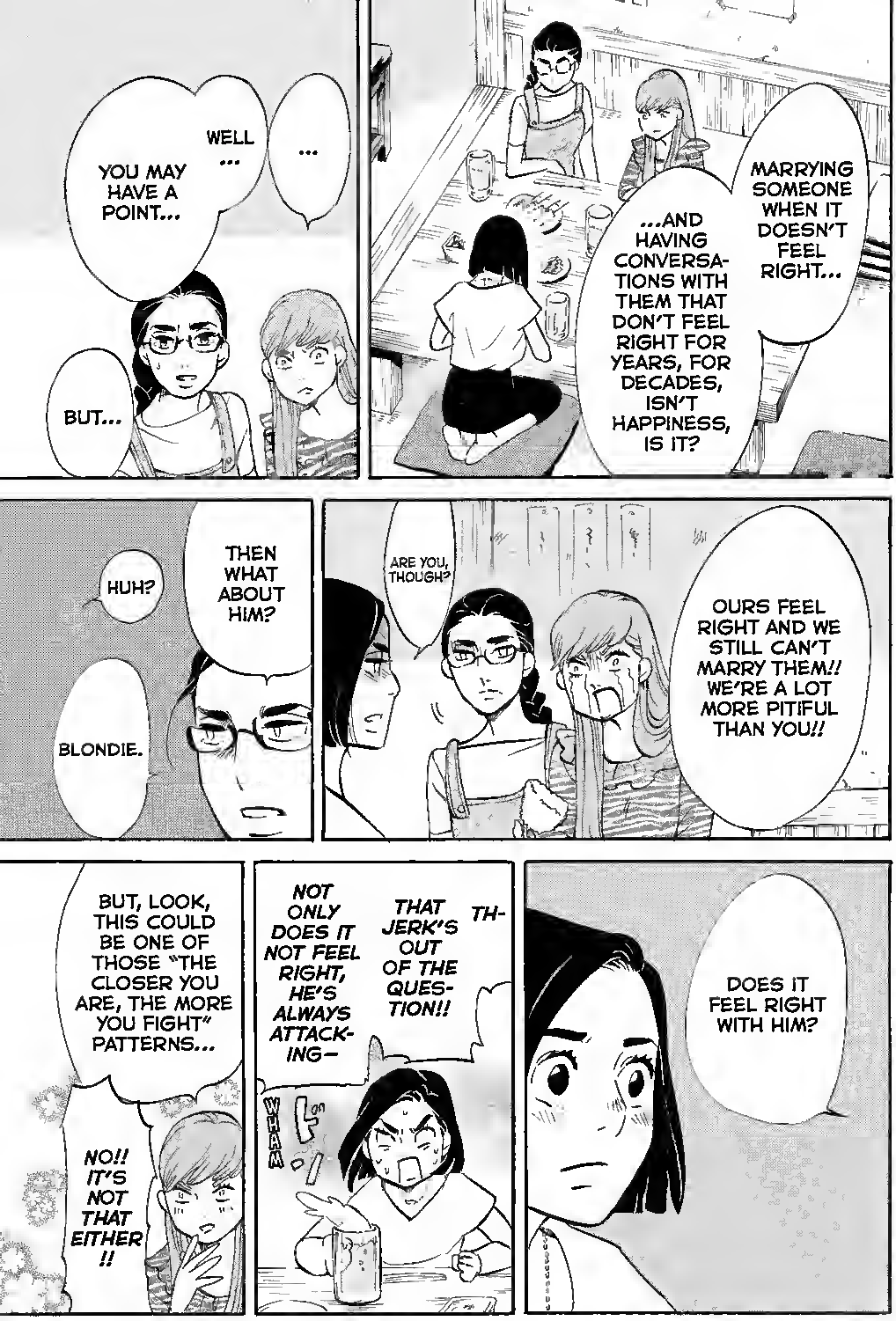
TODAY, I ASCENDED TOKYO TOWER ALONE AND TOOK A LONG, HARD LOOK AT MYSELF...
YOU SURE GAVE UP ON HIM QUICK !!
THAT WAS FAST!!
HOW MUCH FREE TIME DO YOU HAVE ?!
GAH!!
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO SPLIT UP WITH HIM?!
LOOKING DOWN ON THE CITY FROM TOKYO TOWER MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW TINY YOUR OWN PROBLEMS ARE!
IT'S JUST LIKE GOING TO THE BEACH.
WAIT A MINUTE, ISN'T THAT NORMAL? I MEAN, PLENTY OF PEOPLE DO THAT.
OH YEAH, THAT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.
YOU KNOW, RINKO DOES HAVE THIS HABIT OF GOING TO HIGH PLACES WHEN SHE'S WORRIED OR BROODING.
I WAS IN FRIGGIN' MIDDLE SCHOOL LAST TIME I DID.
YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST WENT UP TOKYO TOWER.
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE SKYTREE YET EITHER.
HEY.
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
TO HIM.
WAIT, I THOUGHT TOKYO HAD OVER TEN MILLION PEOPLE?
YEAH, THERE'S MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS METROPOLIS, SO IT DOES MAKE YOU WONDER WHY WE AREN'T MEETING MORE GOOD MEN.
This fried liver is good

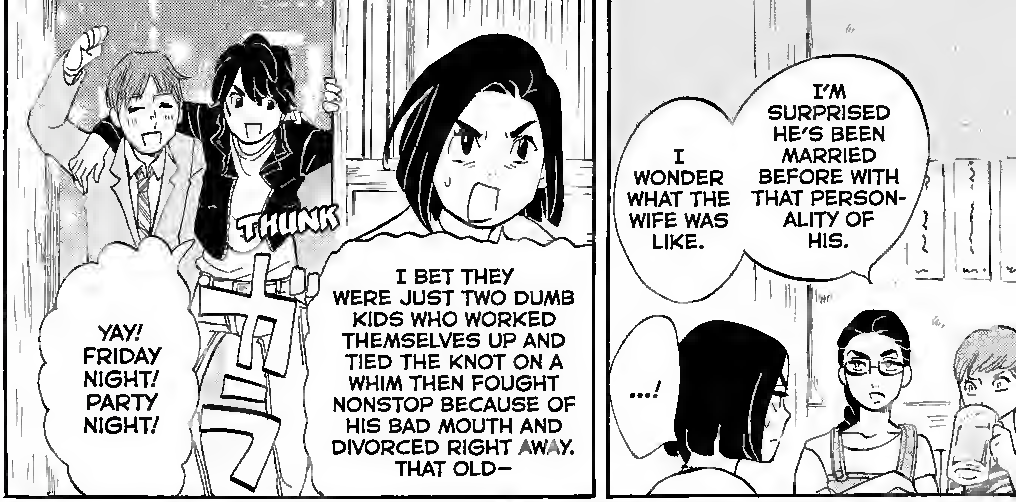
THE WHAT-A-WASTE GHOSTS ARE GONNA HAUNT YOU, YOU JERK!!
THAT'S SO OLD!!
A thirty-something gag!!
WE'RE TELLING YOU IT'D BE A WASTE!!
HOW SHOULD I BREAK IT TO HIM THAT I WANT TO SPLIT UP?
WE MAY NEVER GO.
YEP.
I'VE GOT NO ONE TO GO WITH.
NEITHER HAVE I.
HEY, FORGET ABOUT THAT.
SIGH
IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING TO EXPRESS YOUR EMOTIONS LIKE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG.
IT'S 33-YEAR-OLD SYNDROME.
OH, I UNDERSTAND THAT.
I know that feeling.
HE'S THE TYPE I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER FIGHT WITH, AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T THINK I CAN DATE HIM...
UGH ...
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT! TRY TO FIGHT WITH HIM!
WELL, TELL US WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!!
I'M SO JEALOUS...
...
HUUUH?!
NOPE.
...
OR MAKE YOU SUPER TIRED JUST TALKING TO THEM?
DOES IT EVER FEEL "OFF"...
ARE WITH YOUR MEN...
THEN WHEN YOU TWO...

I WONDER WHICH IS BETTER.
A MAN WHO MAY HAVE OTHER WOMEN, BUT WHO I HAVE FUN WITH...
OR ONE WHO'S MINE ALONE, BUT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.


AT THIS POINT, AS LONG AS IT FEELS RIGHT WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, THAT'D BE ENOUGH FOR ME.
YOU THINK SO?
NATURALLY, THE SINGLE GUY'S BETTER, RIGHT?
...WHICH IS BETTER ...?
Why you
SLUMP

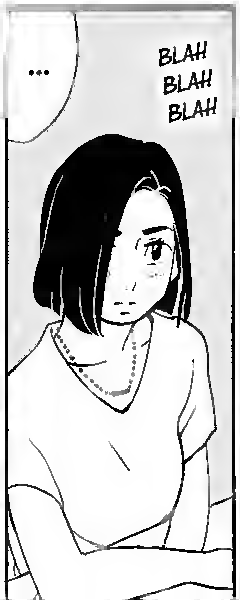
AS LONG AS WE COULD GET TOGETHER ON OUR DAYS OFF, TALK, AND HAVE FUN... AT LEAST WE'D BE HAPPY FOR THAT DAY, RIGHT?
EVEN IF WE CAN'T GET MARRIED...
EVEN IF WE CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER...
ハムかつ 300
チーズフライ 450
辺揚 400
煮豚 600


MARRYING SOMEONE WHEN IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
...AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM THAT DON'T FEEL RIGHT FOR YEARS, FOR DECADES, ISN'T HAPPINESS, IS IT?
...
WELL ...
YOU MAY HAVE A POINT...
BUT...
OURS FEEL RIGHT AND WE STILL CAN'T MARRY THEM!! WE'RE A LOT MORE PITIFUL THAN YOU!!
ARE YOU, THOUGH?
THEN WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HUH?
BLONDIE.
DOES IT FEEL RIGHT WITH HIM?
TH-
THAT JERK'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!!
NOT ONLY DOES IT NOT FEEL RIGHT, HE'S ALWAYS ATTACKING—
WHAM
BUT, LOOK, THIS COULD BE ONE OF THOSE "THE CLOSER YOU ARE, THE MORE YOU FIGHT" PATTERNS...
NO!! IT'S NOT THAT EITHER!!


YAY! FRIDAY NIGHT! PARTY NIGHT!
THUNK
I BET THEY WERE JUST TWO DUMB KIDS WHO WORKED THEMSELVES UP AND TIED THE KNOT ON A WHIM THEN FOUGHT NONSTOP BECAUSE OF HIS BAD MOUTH AND DIVORCED RIGHT AWAY. THAT OLD—
I WONDER WHAT THE WIFE WAS LIKE.
I'M SURPRISED HE'S BEEN MARRIED BEFORE WITH THAT PERSONALITY OF HIS.
...!

Yeesh
...YOU'D BETTER FINISH UP HERE AND GET GOING SOON.
KAORI... I'VE GOTTA BE UP EARLY TOMORROW SO IF YOU'RE COMING OVER...

WE GOT A LITTLE HEAD START ON THE FESTIVITIES!
YO!
WHEN DID YOU TWO MAKE FRIENDS ?!
GAH !!


...
BLAH BLAH BLAH

WANNA GO TO THE HOT STONE SPA TOGETHER?
KOYUKI, WHEN DO YOU GET OFF TODAY?

AHH...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA BE ABLE TO WAKE UP AT 6 TOMORROW!
HEY...
RYO...
WHEN YOU, LIKE, TALK TO ME...
DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OR...
YOU KNOW... DOES IT JUST FEEL "OFF"?
HUH?
OF COURSE NOT!
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE 18!
...RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT...
...HER?
OH...
I DO.
HUH?!
OUR CONVERSATIONS JUST DON'T FLOW...
AND US MUSICIANS DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO TALK TO THOSE FASHION PEOPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HUH...
THEN IT'S MORE FUN TALKING TO ME?
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A LOT YOUNGER THAN ME.

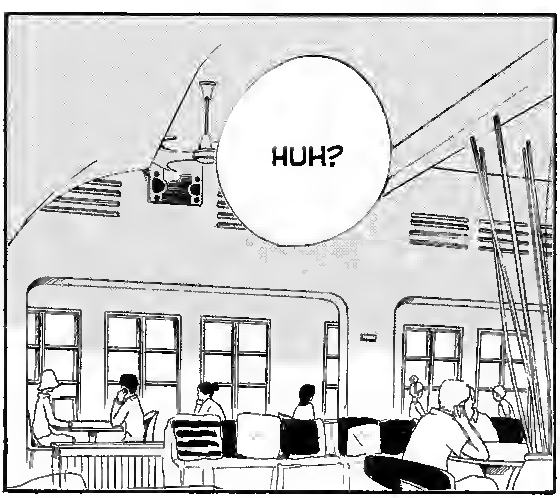
YEAH.
OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU LIKE THIS.
I DO GET TIRED EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
...WHEN I'M AROUND GIRLS LIKE HER.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST BREAK UP WITH HER AND GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN?
YEAH, RIGHT.
I'M NOT SAYING THAT.
SO?

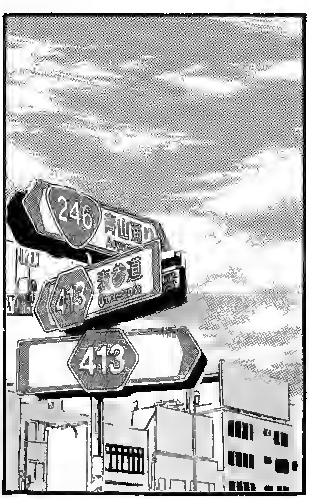
WHEN IS YOUR WIFE COMING BACK FROM HER PARENTS' HOUSE?
SO...
SHE'S ALWAYS HATED HOUSE-WORK ...
MY WIFE CAN'T COOK AT ALL.
AND THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET LIKE WE DO NOW.
AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COME TO THE PUB FOR MEALS EITHER.
NO!
I'LL COME!
WHUMP!
...SHE SAYS SHE'S GOING TO STAY THERE FOR A WHILE EVEN AFTER THE BIRTH...
BUT SHE'LL BE BACK SOONER OR LATER. AFTER BEING AWAY FOR TWO MONTHS.
IT'S WHAT YOU CALL ONE OF THOSE POST-PARTUM CRISES.
SHE'S BEEN ON EDGE SINCE WE HAD KID. EVERY DAY SHE CRIES AND WHINES...

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE MY WIFE, WHO HAD TURNED INTO ALMOST A DIFFERENT PERSON AFTER OUR FIRST CHILD ANY-MORE...
BUT I...
SHE FIGURED HAVING TWO CHILDREN WOULD MAKE THINGS EASIER IN THE FUTURE...
BUT THEN SHE SAID SHE WANTED ANOTHER ONE WHEN THE FIRST ONE GREW UP A LITTLE.
...SO I ASKED HER TO HAVE THE NEXT ONE AT HER PARENT'S HOUSE IN FUKUOKA AND LET THEM RAISE IT THERE FOR A WHILE.
OUR OLDER CHILD WAS STILL A HANDFUL ...
IT'S PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM THE HAPPINESS I HAD ENVI-SIONED FOR MYSELF.
...HAV-ING KIDS?
BUT ISN'T IT A HAPPY THING...
I'M SURE IT IS...
BUT...

LOSER
...
...CHATTING WITH YOU HERE IN THIS SPA MAKES ME MUCH HAPPIER.
WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING ME HAPPY...

HE'S MUCH MORE HONEST THAN THOSE MEN WHO DON'T EVEN LIKE KIOS, BUT TRY TO PRETENO THEY'RE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THEIRS.
BUT HE'S HONEST AND CUTE.


HUH?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413

LIKE I SAID...I, UM, DECIDED I REALLY DO HAVE TO FOCUS ON MY JOB NOW...
SO FOR A WHILE, IT'LL BE HARD FOR ME TO SEE YOU...
...LIKE I DO NOW...
...
I'M...
...
SORRY.
...
RINKO.
TWITCH

SO I DIDN'T WORK OUT?
...!
HUH ?!
NO, YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING ...
I MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG, RIGHT?
IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN TELL ME THE TRUTH.
HAHA!
SO IT'S NOT EASY TO MEET EACH OTHER IN THE MIDDLE.
WE'RE BOTH STILL SINGLE AT OUR AGE...
CLINK

I...
NO. THE PROBLEM IS WITH ME.
...!
Y-
YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT GUY YOU'RE WASTED ON ME...
I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT.
IF IT'S A PROBLEM I CAN FIX, I'LL FIX IT.
WHEN I'M AROUND YOU.
JUST GET TIRED...
I...
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH ME.
...CAN'T OVERCOME THAT EVEN AT THIS AGE. IT'S MY FAULT.
...
IF YOU'VE DECIDED I'M NOT THE ONE...
...THEN THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT.

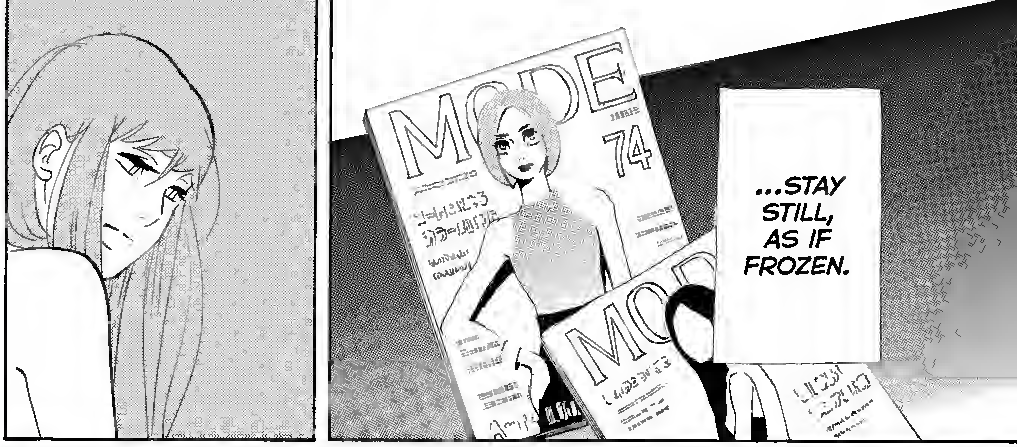
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, MEN ARE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE QUIETLY. THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID IN "THE GODFATHER."
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT ONE?
...I HAVEN'T ...
WELL.
FEEL FREE TO COME BY THE BAR SOMETIME LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
OH.
YEAH ...
I'VE GOT TO STOP BY TSUTAYA, SO I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
THANK YOU, RINKO.
FOR TELLING ME THE TRUTH.
BUT LET ME TELL YOU ONE LAST THING BEFORE I GO.
HUH ?!
TWITCH
WHAT IS IT?

I HAD FUN WITH YOU.
SORRY I MADE YOU TIRED.
I MEAN IT.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WORK.
IF YOU WRITE A MOVIE ONE DAY, I'LL BE THE FIRST IN LINE TO SEE IT.

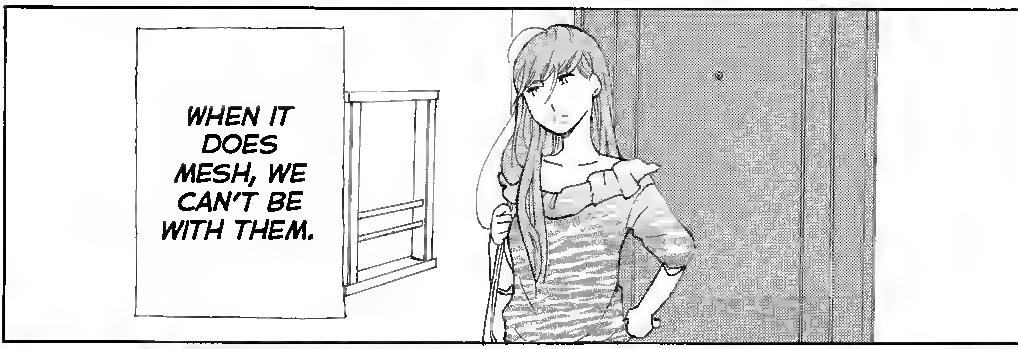
WHIII~
OKAY.
TAKE CARE.
~IIIIZ
SIGH.
I CAN SEE A TIME MACHINE ARRIVING FROM TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
AND THE 43-YEAR-OLD ME IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT SAYS THIS:
WHIIIIZ

RINKO.
GO WITH HIM.
YOU'RE ALREADY 33.
YOU MUST COMPRO-MISE.
IF YOU LET HIM GET AWAY, YOU'LL REGRET IT.
I AM YOU FROM TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
PSHHH
KER-CHUNK
I'M STILL ALONE.
PLEASE... I'M BEGGING YOU...
CLACK
OPEN YOUR EYES.

I'M LONELY.
BUT STILL...
MY LEGS DO NOT MOVE.
OUR HANDS, WHICH WERE SUP-POSED ...
...TO GRASP HAPPI-NESS...

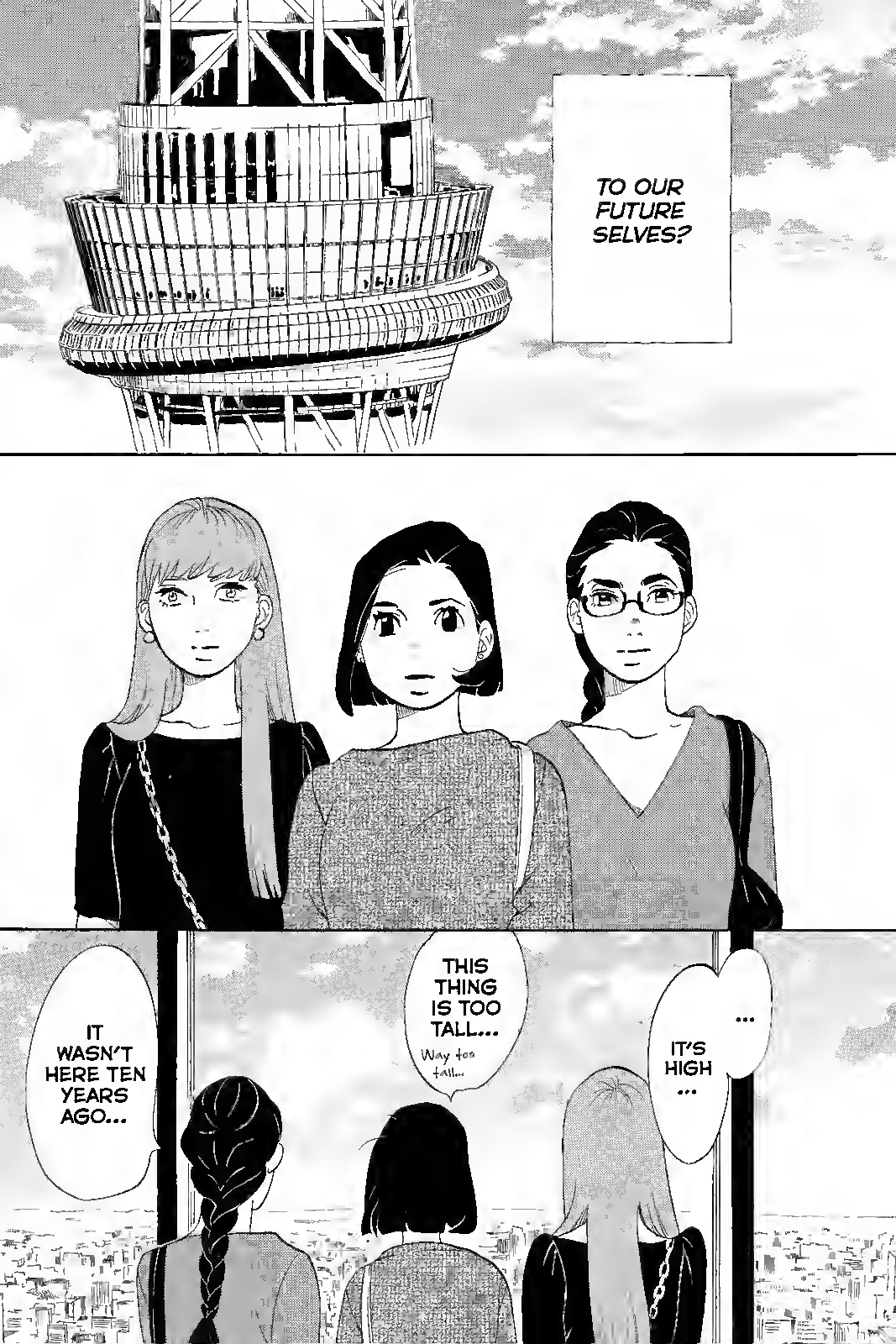

MODE
74
...STAY STILL, AS IF FROZEN.

WHEN WE CAN BE WITH SOMEONE, IT DOESN'T MESH.

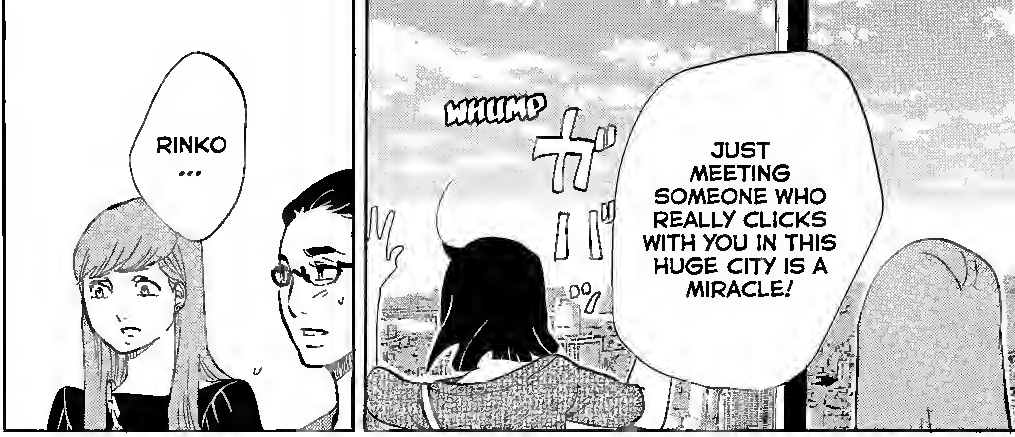

WHEN IT DOES MESH, WE CAN'T BE WITH THEM.

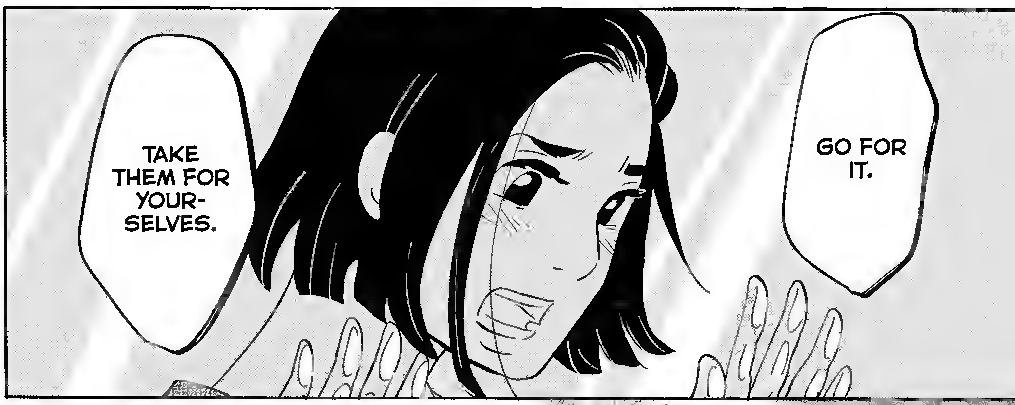
BLUB
BLUB

PINK ポ
I wanna go to the Skytree.
Good idea
EVEN WHEN WE'RE IN LOVE, WE CAN'T GET MARRIED.
WHEN WAS IT...
...WE GOT STUCK IN THIS MISMATCHED, CLUMSY LIFE-STYLE?
"I'M SORRY WE'RE CLUMSY."
...SAID KEN, LONG AGO.
BUT WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE TO?

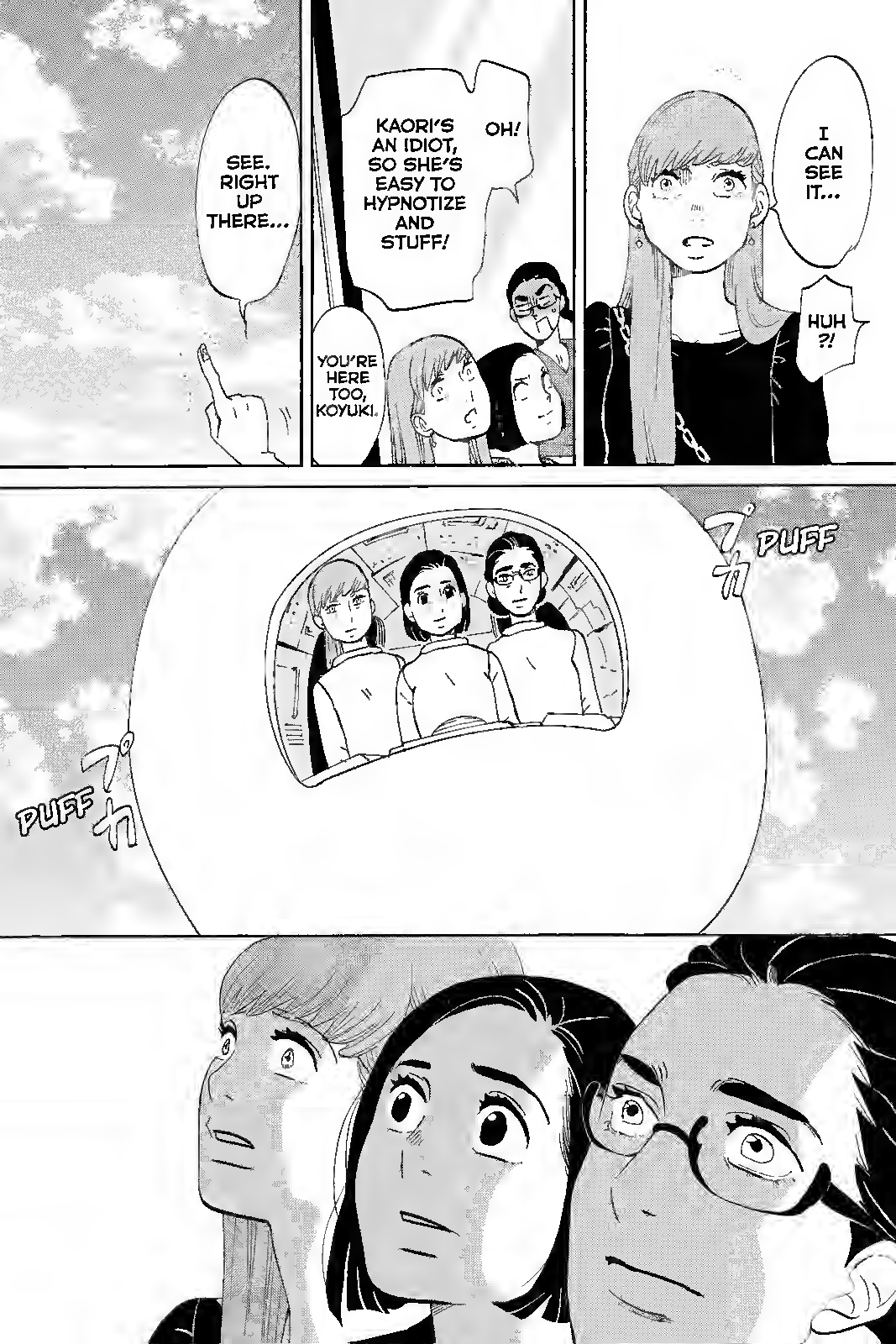

TO OUR FUTURE SELVES?
IT WASN'T HERE TEN YEARS AGO...
THIS THING IS TOO TALL...
Way too tall...
...
IT'S HIGH ...

SAY...
IF TIME MACHINES WERE REAL...
...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU DID DUMP THAT GREAT GUY.
...YOU PRACTICALLY ARE A HERMIT AT THIS POINT, RIGHT?
...CLIMBING TALL PLACES LIKE THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A HERMIT OR SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW ...
...OR MAYBE GIVE US A GOOD WHACK UPSIDE THE HEAD?
THEY MIGHT YELL AT US ABOUT THIS BEING NO TIME TO VISIT THE SKYTREE WITH OUR GIRLFRIENDS...
WELL ...
...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'D TELL US?
AND OUR FUTURE SELVES CAME TO VISIT US FROM THE FUTURE...
...VALUE YOUR OWN FEELINGS.
EVEN IF YOUR MAN'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND OR A WIFE...
WH-WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
HANG IN THERE, YOU TWO.
...
HEY...


RINKO ...
MHUMM
JUST MEETING SOMEONE WHO REALLY CLICKS WITH YOU IN THIS HUGE CITY IS A MIRACLE!


TAKE THEM FOR YOUR-SELVES.
GO FOR IT.

COME ON! IMAGINE IT!
IF YOUR FUTURE SELVES WERE RIGHT UP THERE, WHAT WOULD THEY SAY?!
WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF ENERGY ANY-MORE ...
OH ...
NO...
MHM
HUH?!

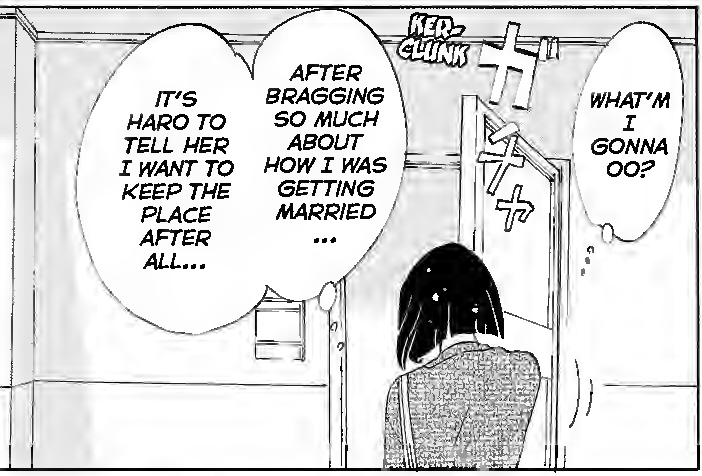

I CAN SEE IT...
HUH?!
OH!
KAORI'S AN IDIOT, SO SHE'S EASY TO HYPNOTIZE AND STUFF!
YOU'RE HERE TOO, KOYUKI.
SEE. RIGHT UP THERE...
プカ PUFF
PUFF プカ

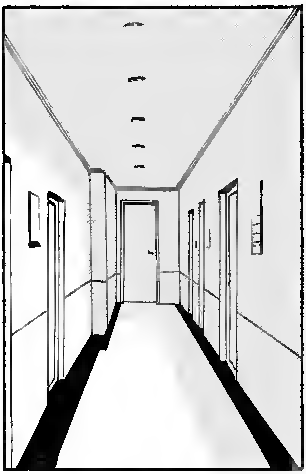
YOU'RE STILL IN THE GAME.
YOU THREE ARE STILL YOUNG.
EVERY WEEK, WE GO ON DAY TOURS BY BUS TO CHIBA AND OTHER PLACES.
SORRY YOUR FUTURE IS SO DISAP-POINTING.
YOU MUST FIND A LIFELONG PARTNER BY THE TOKYO OLYMPICS.
SO HANG IN THERE FOR NOW.
THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

PLEASE.
CHANGE OUR FUTURE.
GREAT WORK, EVERY-ONE!
LOOK, MR. KEY!
THIS MAGAZINE COLUMN HAS NOTHING BUT GOOD TO SAY ABOUT "FALSE MARRIAGE" AGAIN!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR SCRIPT, MAMI.
OH NO!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY TEACHER, RINKO!
...

BY THE WAY, IS THAT TEACHER OF YOURS REALLY GETTING MARRIED?
FLUTTER
OH! YES!
I'M EVEN GONNA BE RENTING HER OFFICE!
HUH ...
OH! I KNOW!
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOLDING A SURPRISE CONGRATULA-TIONS PARTY FOR HER.
IF YOU'D LIKE, FEEL FREE TO COME TOO, MR. KEY!
WHOA! MAMI?!
...
SURE.
HUH?!
WOW! IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO CONVINCE YOU, MR. KEY!
WHEN ARE YOU HOLDING THIS PARTY?
DRIP
AHHH!
IT'S RAINING!
OH CRAP! EVERYONE OUT OF THE RAIN!
SHHHHH
WHOA! THAT'S GONNA BE IT FOR TODAY.
ALL RIGHT!
THEN LET'S HAVE THE PARTY TONIGHT!
CHACK
I'll call Rinko!

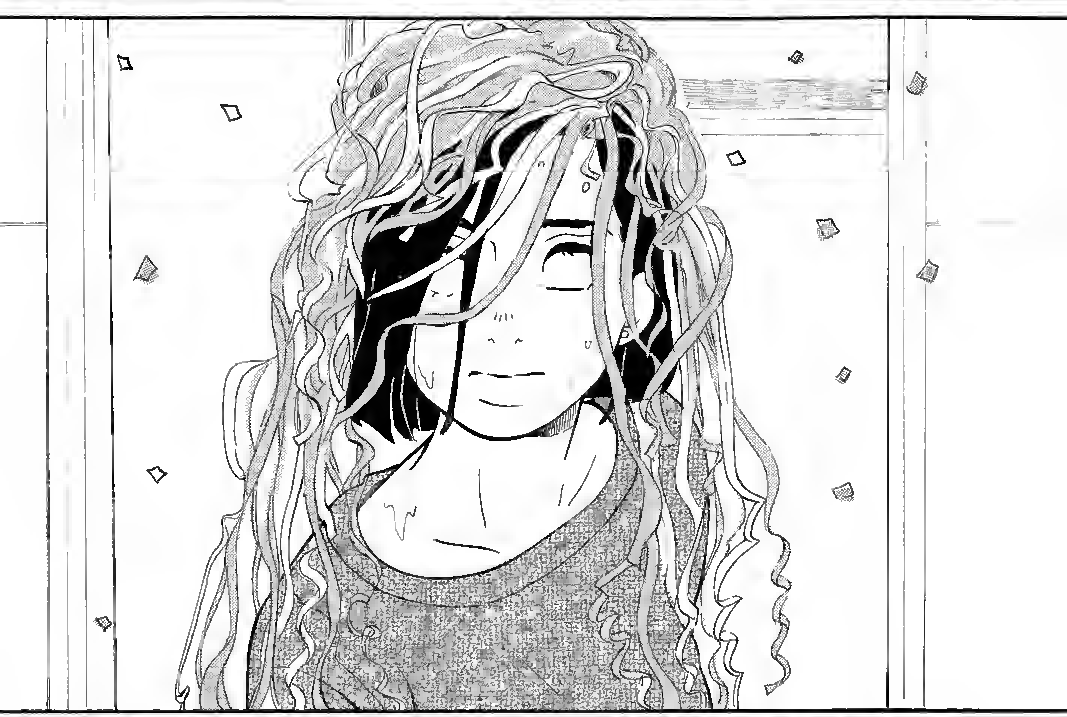
GOT NO PLACE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT...
ANO NOW THAT I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED, I'VE...
MAMI TOOK MY BASE OF OPERATIONS...
SIGH...
PLOD PLOD
Rinko! The air conditioner's acting up!
Would you mind stopping by


KER-CLUNK
IT'S HARO TO TELL HER I WANT TO KEEP THE PLACE AFTER ALL...
AFTER BRAGGING SO MUCH ABOUT HOW I WAS GETTING MARRIED ...
WHAT'M I GONNA DO?

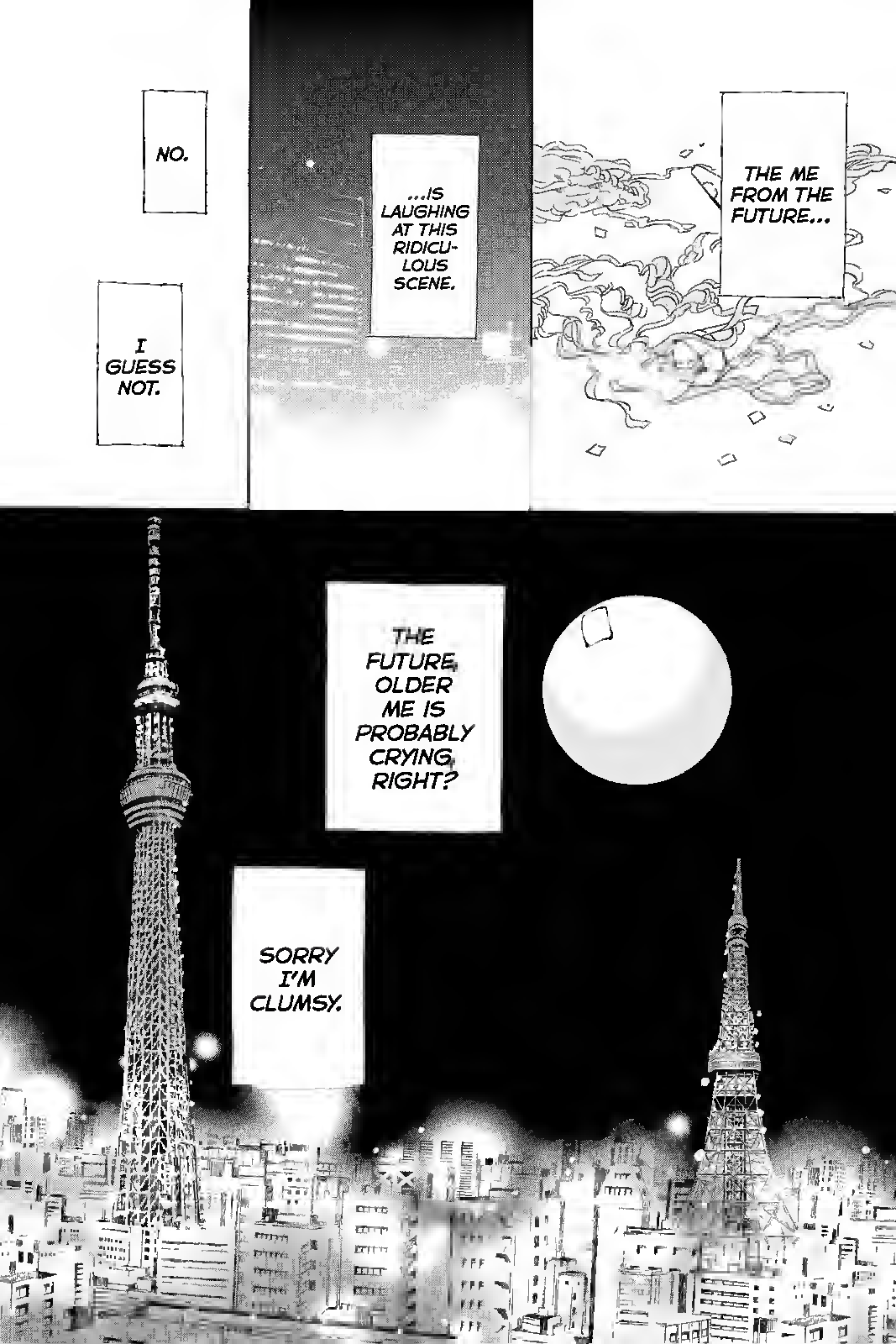


BANG

CONGRATU-
LATIONS,
RINKO!
PARTY
WEAPON



CONGRAT-ULATIONS, MA'AM.
HERE, A PRESENT FROM ME.
LOSER
AHAHA! DID WE SURPRISE YOU?
LET'S OPEN THE CHAM-PAGNE!
OH!
AND WHY DON'T YOU CALL YOUR BOYFRIEND TOO WHEN HE GETS OFF WORK ♡?
WE SPLIT UP.
HUH ?!
...
WE BROKE UP.
SORRY.
RUSTLE

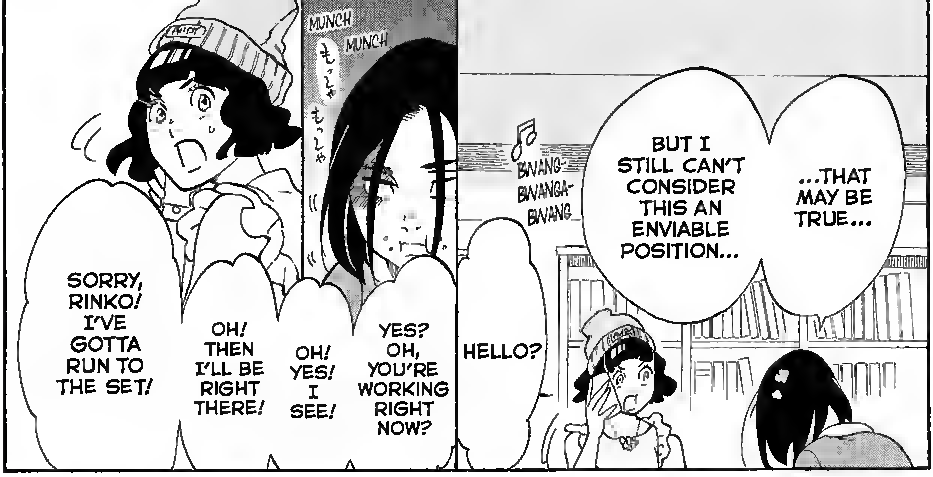

NO.
I GUESS NOT.
...IS LAUGHING AT THIS RIDICULOUS SCENE.
THE ME FROM THE FUTURE...
THE FUTURE, OLDER ME IS PROBABLY CRYING, RIGHT?
SORRY I'M CLUMSY.

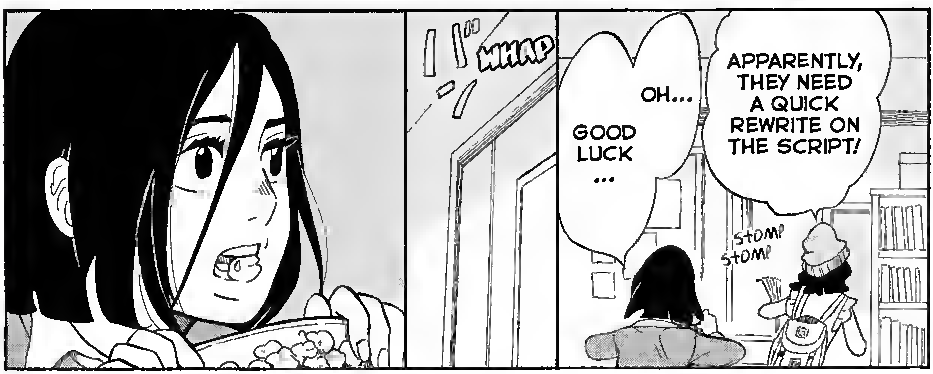
ACT
14
INVISIBLE WOMEN

APPARENTLY, THERE ARE INVISIBLE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.
MINX
...IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO.
RIGHT THERE...
TONS OF THEM.

AVIDY
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STAY DE-PRESSED?!
RINKO!!

Don't you have anything better to do?!
I DON'T... HAVE ANY WORK...
...
THEN LET'S DO SOME WORK!! WORK!!
IF YOU'VE GOT THE ENERGY TO STAND IN LINE AT A POPCORN SHOP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN...
MUNCH
MUNCH
WE MAY BE SPLITTING IT, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT TO COVER YOUR HALF!
YOU'VE STILL GOTTA PAY RENT FOR THIS OFFICE, YOU KNOW?
YEAH! I MAY BE YOUR APPRENTICE, BUT I'LL STILL PAY YOU!
...
ASSISTING...MY APPRENTICE...
HEH
PLEASE HELP ME WITH THE REWRITES ON THIS SCRIPT!
HERE!
SURE YOU DO!
CLOP
AVIDY
WAVE
WAVE
THERE'S PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN'T GO OUT WITH GUYS EVEN WHEN THEY WANT TO!
WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO DEFEATED FOR?! JUST BECAUSE YOU BROKE UP WITH A GUY!
KAWAGOE...
I'M GONNA MOVE BACK IN WITH MY PARENTS ...
NO...I THINK ...
YOUR PARENTS? IN SAITAMA?!


CRUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
もぐもぐ
SORRY, RINKO! I'VE GOTTA RUN TO THE SET!
OH! THEN I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
OH! YES! I SEE!
YES? OH, YOU'RE WORKING RIGHT NOW?
HELLO?
BWANG-BWANGA-BWANG
BUT I STILL CAN'T CONSIDER THIS AN ENVIABLE POSITION...
...THAT MAY BE TRUE...


MMM
GOOD LUCK ...
OH...
APPARENTLY, THEY NEED A QUICK REWRITE ON THE SCRIPT!
stomp stomp

THUNK

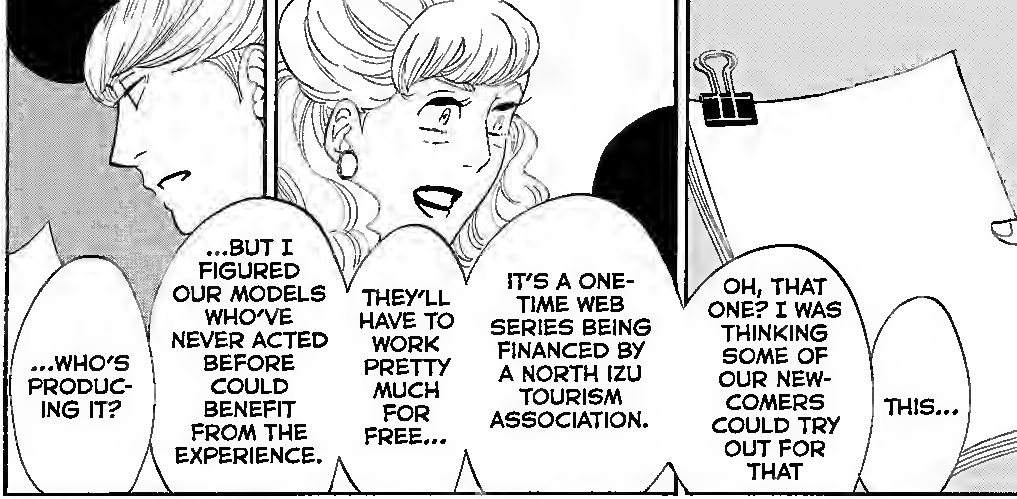
OH! MAMI'S HERE! THE WRITER!
ALL RIGHT! OKAY!!
CUT!!
BOY, THAT GIRL'S LIGHT ON HER FEET!
SHE'S HERE ALREADY ?!
THAT WAS FAST!
TMP TMP TMP
OH! I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HAPPEN ...
THE SPONSOR TOLD US WE CAN'T DO THIS SCENE AS-IS.
SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
...SO I WROTE THIS ALTERNATE VERSION LAST NIGHT!
HUH ?!
FWIP

BWANG-BWANGA-BYANG
HELLO?
SEE! THAT'S THEM!
THEY SHOULD FINISH READING IT RIGHT ABOUT—
OH! I EMAILED IT TO THEM ON THE WAY!
HEY! SEND THIS TO THE SPONSOR RIGHT AWAY!
OH, YEAH, THIS SHOULD BE FINE.
WITH ANY OTHER WRITER, WE WOULD HAVE LOST THE WHOLE DAY...
THE SHOOT DIDN'T FALL A SINGLE MINUTE BEHIND SCHED-ULE...
WHOA...
あん WOW...
THUMBS-UP
THEY GAVE IT THEIR OKAY!
DIREC-TOR!
OH, REALLY? THANK YOU!
YES! YES!
...
CLEVER, EFFICIENT, AND CONFI-DENT, TOO, HUH?
BUT I GUESS SOME OF THEM REALLY DO HAVE GUTS!
I THOUGHT KIDS THESE DAYS WERE ALL WORTHLESS IDIOTS...
I'll go make copies!

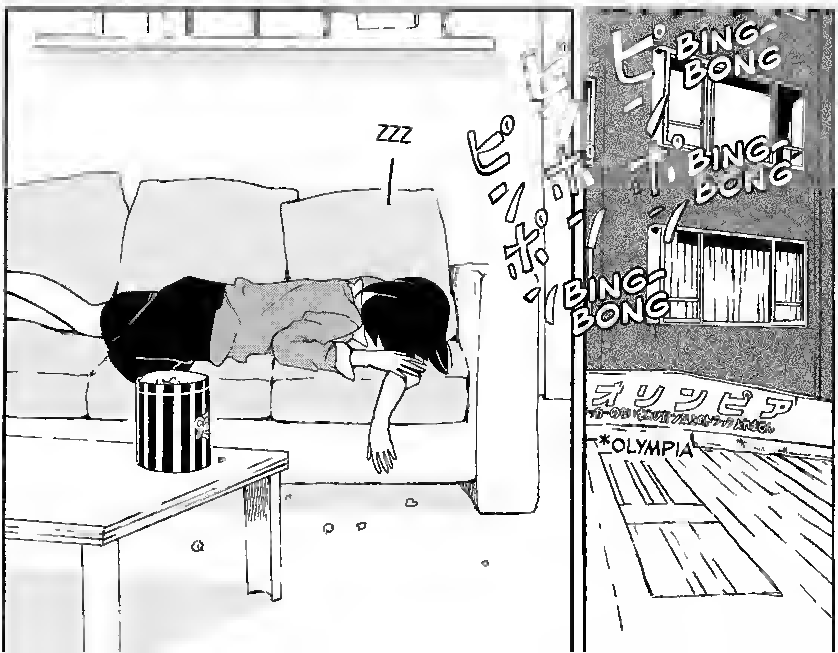
H&R
model agency
IS THE CHIEF HERE?
I NEED TO TALK TO THE CHIEF.
CHIEF!
MR. KEY IS HERE!
HUUUUH?!
KER-CHUNK
Here, I brought you guys some chocolates
OH!
MR. KEY!
GOSH, YOU DON'T COME TO THE OFFICE MUCH...

OH LORD! WHAT IS IT?!
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING.
HUUUH?!
WHAT?!
WAS THERE A FIGHT ABOUT THE SERIES?!
NO. SOME-THING ELSE.
HUH?! WHAT IS IT?!
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE QUITTING THE AGENCY!!
Can I sit down?
THUNK
You're scaring me!!
NO. DO YOU HAVE...
...LIKE, ANY TV JOBS LAYING AROUND?
Jeez, you're high-strung
HUH?!
WHAT?! HAVE YOU TAKEN A LIKING TO ACTING WORK?!
NO, NOT FOR ME.
I DON'T CARE HOW SMALL THE JOB IS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING?
TV OR FILM WILL WORK.
THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF PROPOSALS OVER THERE!
AH.
CAN I TAKE A LOOK?

CAN YOU BE QUIET FOR A SECOND, CHIEF?
NOW WE WON'T JUST BE A MODELING AGENCY, BUT A BIG ENTERTAINMENT GROUP WITH ALL SORTS OF POPULAR ACTORS—
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING SOME REAL MOTIVATION !!
WHY? I'M REALLY HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
WHEN I FOUND YOU THAT DAY...
...SIX YEARS AGO... YOU WERE STILL JUST A TEENAGER...
I NEVER EVEN DREAMED YOU WOULD BOUNCE BACK LIKE THIS!
STAGGER よろ
THERE YOU GO AGAIN...
OH!
RUSTLE パラ


OH, THAT ONE? I WAS THINKING SOME OF OUR NEW-COMERS COULD TRY OUT FOR THAT
IT'S A ONE-TIME WEB SERIES BEING FINANCED BY A NORTH IZU TOURISM ASSOCIATION.
THEY'LL HAVE TO WORK PRETTY MUCH FOR FREE...
...BUT I FIGURED OUR MODELS WHO'VE NEVER ACTED BEFORE COULD BENEFIT FROM THE EXPERIENCE.
...WHO'S PRODUC-ING IT?
THIS...

I THINK ONE OF THE LOCAL CABLE STATIONS' STAFF IS SUPPOSED TO FILM IT.
THAT'S HOW IT IS EVERYWHERE. NO ONE WANTS TO SPEND MONEY.
WHAP
HUH.
I LIKE IT.
HUH ?!

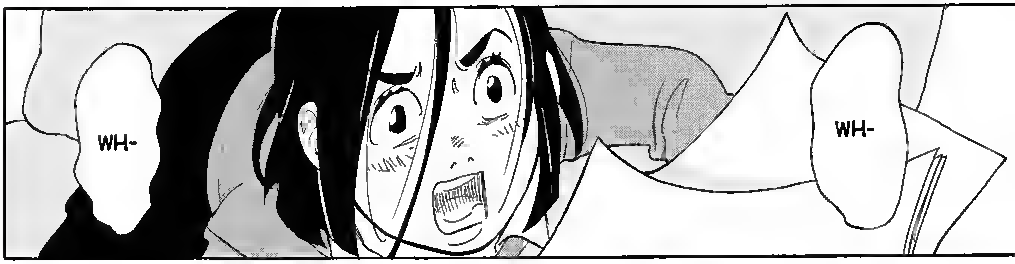

ZZZ
ピンポーン
BING-BONG
BING-BONG
BING-BONG
オリンピア
*OLYMPIA

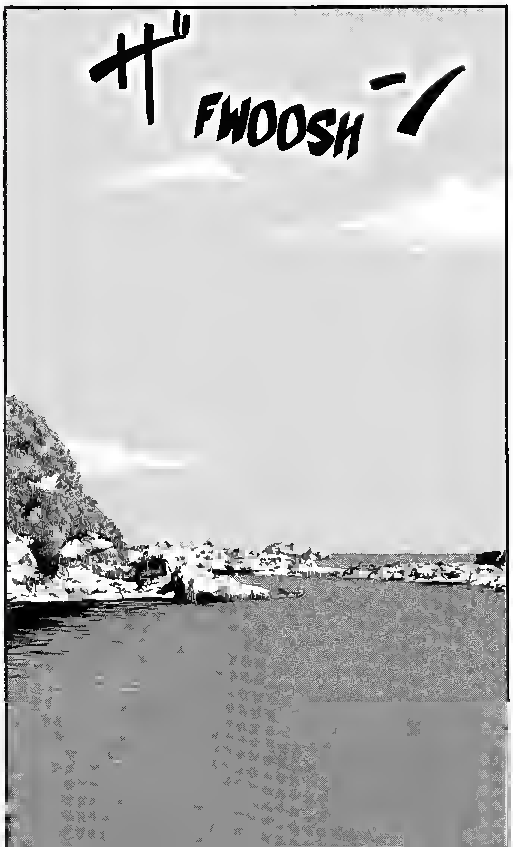
KER-CHUNK
ガチャ
ZZZ
TMP TMP
HEY! WAKE UP!
YOUR DOOR WAS UN-LOCKED! THAT'S JUST CARE-LESS!
ZZZ
WHA?
WHUMP
SNRK!
WHAP
I SAID WAKE UP!!
I'M SO UN-EMPLOYED AND UN-MARRIAGE-ABLE THAT THE GRIM REAPER CAME FOR ME!
EEEEK!
RUSTLE
READ THIS.
RIGHT NOW.
YARGH!
LOOM
THE GRIM REAPER!!

WHAT THE?
NORTH IZU?
A TOURISM ASSOCIATION-SPONSORED WEB SERIES?
I CALLED THEM BEFORE I CAME. THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND A WRITER.
DO IT.

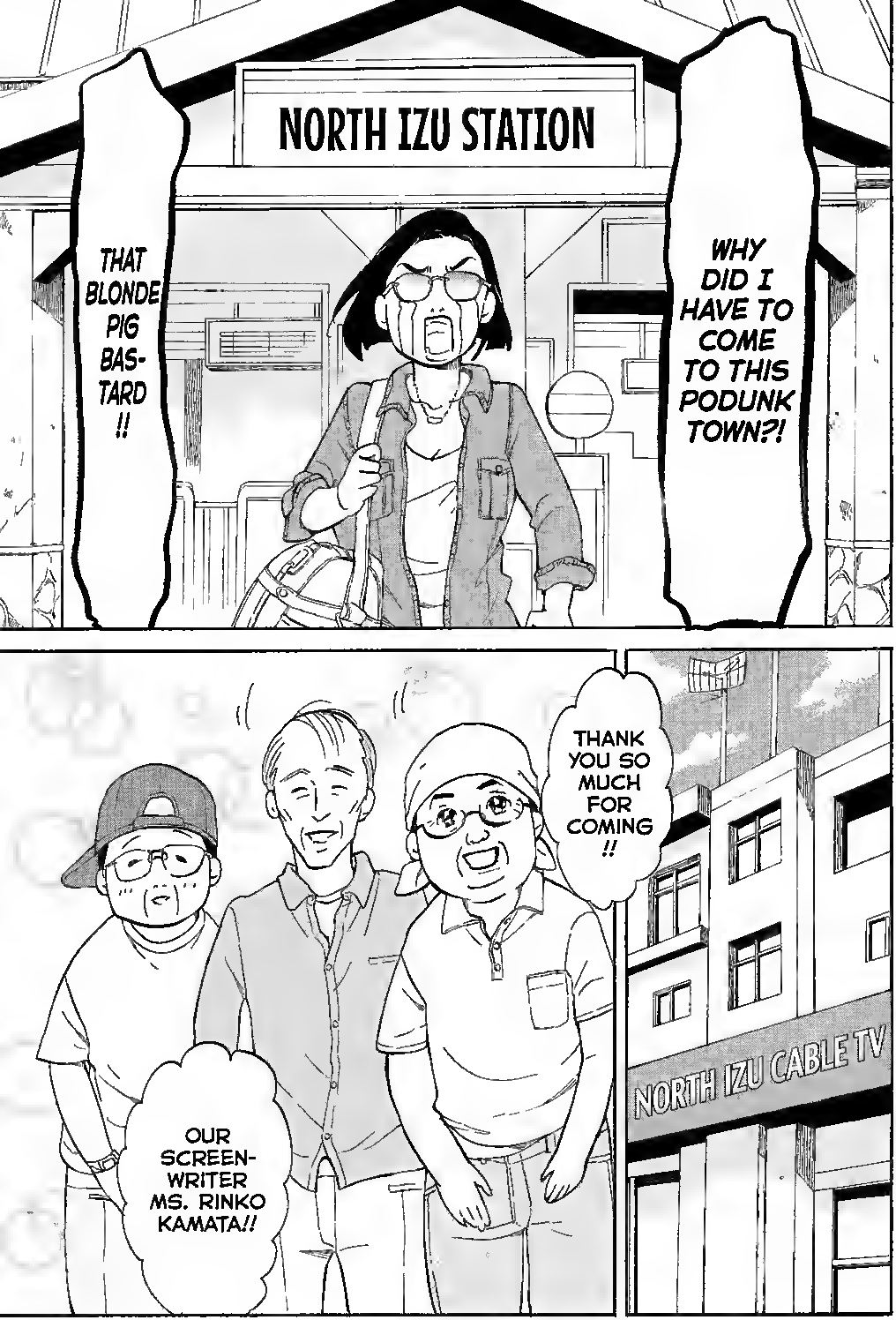
TAKE THE JOB.
WRITE THE SCRIPT FOR THIS SERIES.
WHAT ARE YOU... TALKING ABOUT?
THIS... LOCAL STATION PRODUC-TION?
HUH? WHAT? ISN'T THE TOWN HALL BEHIND THIS?
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO REFUSE.
I ALREADY CALLED THEM AND VOLUN-TEERED YOU.
HUH?!

GET PACKING.
O-Oh jeez.
RUSTLE
HERE.
I BOOKED YOU A HOTEL, TOO.
THEY SAID THE PRO-DUCTION MEETINGS START TOMORROW.


WH-
WH-

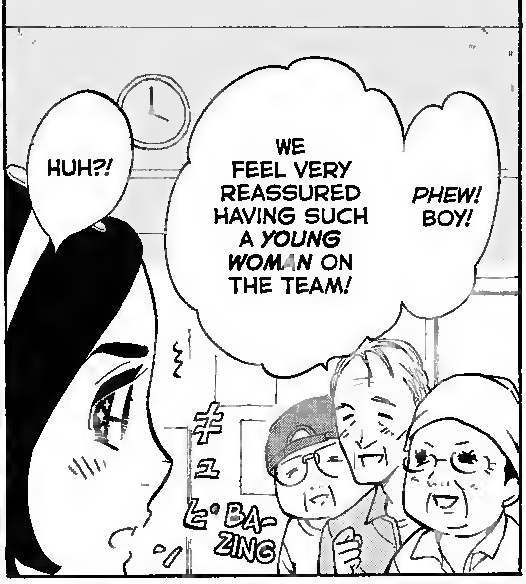

FWOOSH

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS CRUMMY JOB?!
ZOOM

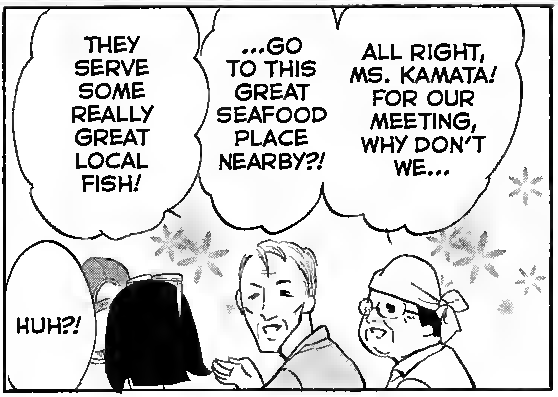

NORTH IZU STATION
WHY DID I HAVE TO COME TO THIS PODUNK TOWN?!
THAT BLONDE PIG BAS-TARD !!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING !!
NORTH IZU CABLE TV
OUR SCREEN-WRITER MS. RINKO KAMATA!!

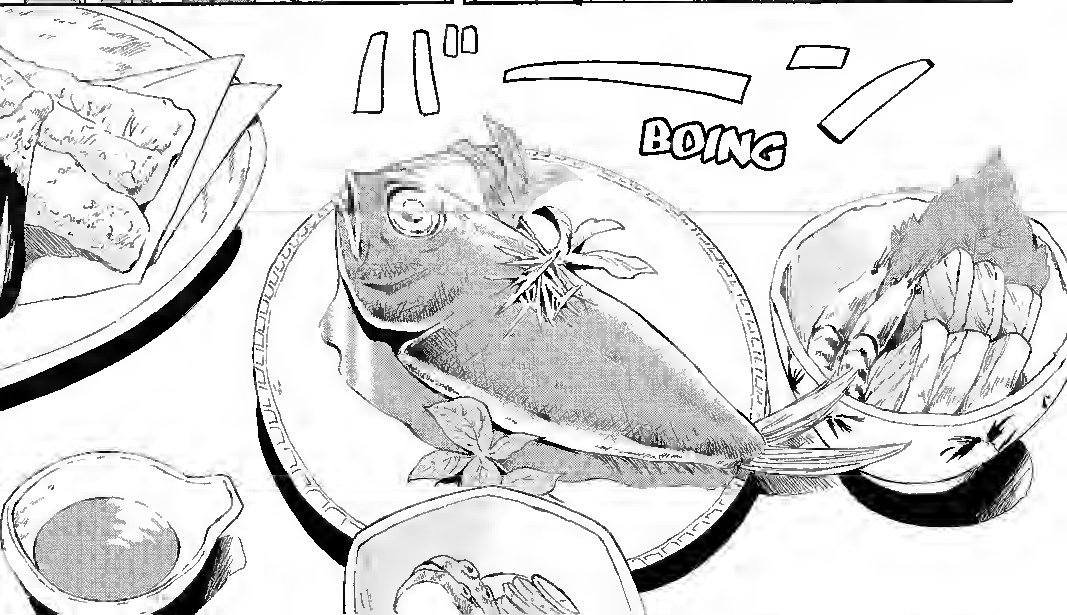
AM I AT THE LOCAL SENIOR CAREER CENTER?
GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE A REAL PRO SCREENWRITER FROM TOKYO IS HELPING WITH OUR LITTLE PROJECT...
WE'RE JUST SO THANKFUL YOU DECIDED TO PITCH IN FOR NORTH IZU...
WE HEAR YOU'VE ALWAYS LOVED NORTH IZU AND WILL TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO COME.
WELL, ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES ...
I AM THE DIRECTOR, YAMADA.
I'M THE CAMERAMAN, YOSHIKAWA.
AND I'M THE EDITOR AND JACK OF ALL TRADES, HIRAYAMA.
SHINE
GOLF
FWAP
EXCUSE ME...DO YOU ALL HAVE... SCRIPTED TV EXPERIENCE?
I WORKED ON THOSE ALL THE TIME AT A STUDIO IN TOKYO WHEN I WAS YOUNGER ...
...BUT WHEN I GOT TOO OLD, I RETREATED HERE...
I USED TO BE THE CAMERAMAN FOR THE SOAP OPERAS AT TOKAI TV.
I'M LIKE A LIVING FOSSIL IN THE TV INDUSTRY.

WELL, WE'RE MAKING THIS SERIES TO BE SEEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE! SO WE WANTED A YOUNG PERSON TO WRITE THE SCRIPT!
Y-YOUNG?

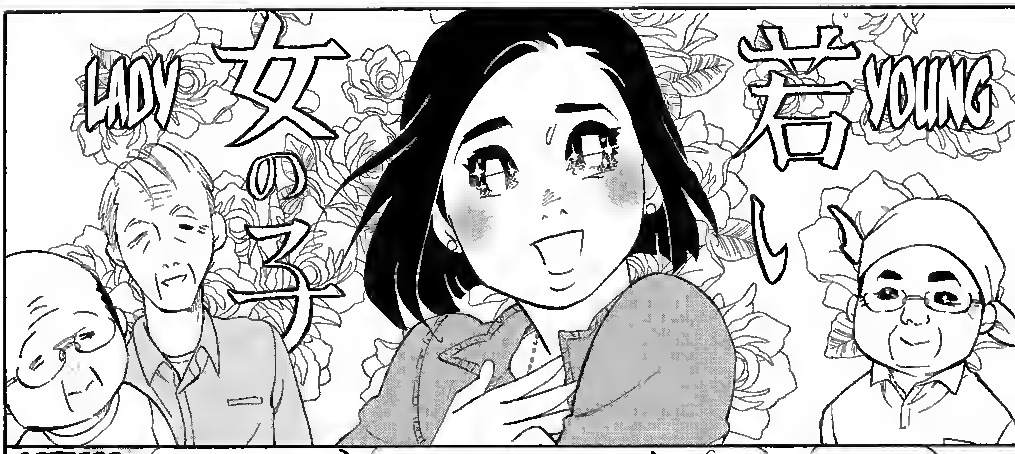

HUH?!
WE FEEL VERY REASSURED HAVING SUCH A YOUNG WOMAN ON THE TEAM!
PHEW! BOY!
#1 Le BAR-ZING

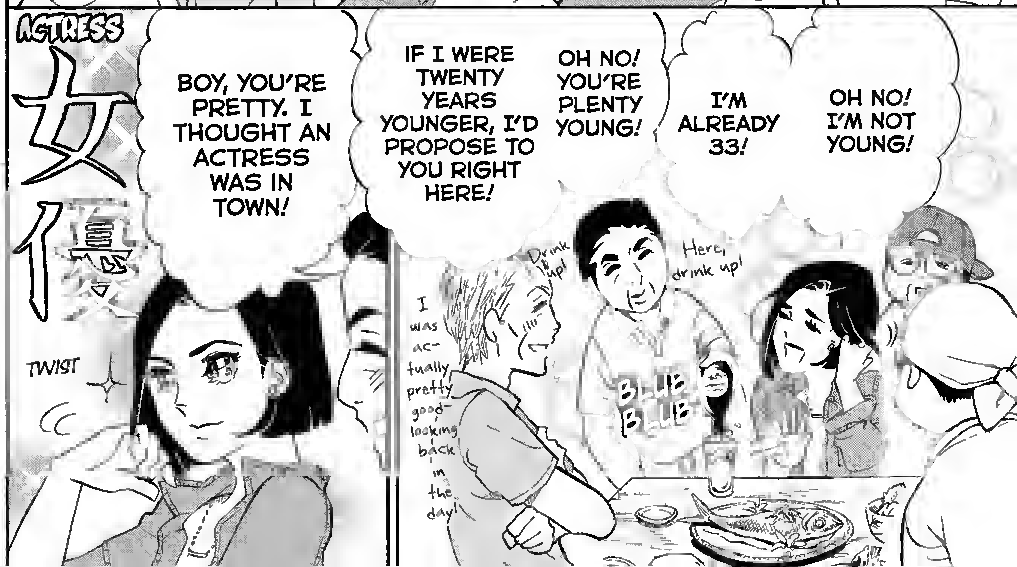
DO YOU DRINK, MS. KAMATA?
STARE
ギラリ
OH, I LOVE TO DRINK.


ALL RIGHT, MS. KAMATA! FOR OUR MEETING, WHY DON'T WE...
...GO TO THIS GREAT SEAFOOD PLACE NEARBY?!
THEY SERVE SOME REALLY GREAT LOCAL FISH!
HUH?!

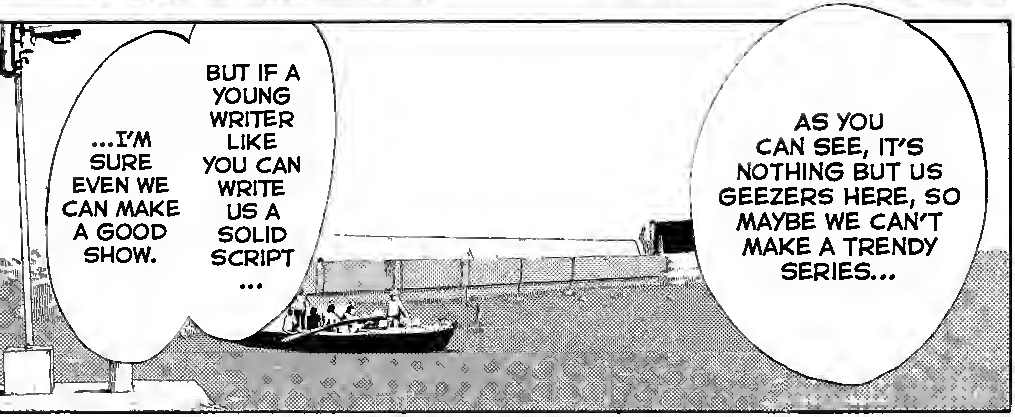

BOING

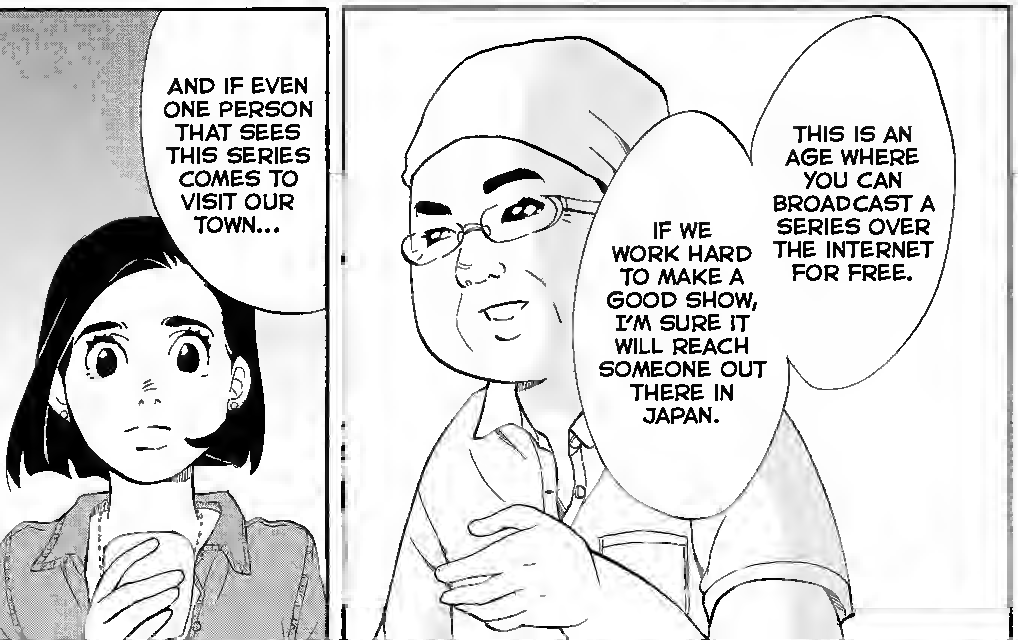
HUUUH ?!
THIS YOUNG LADY IS THE WRITER?!

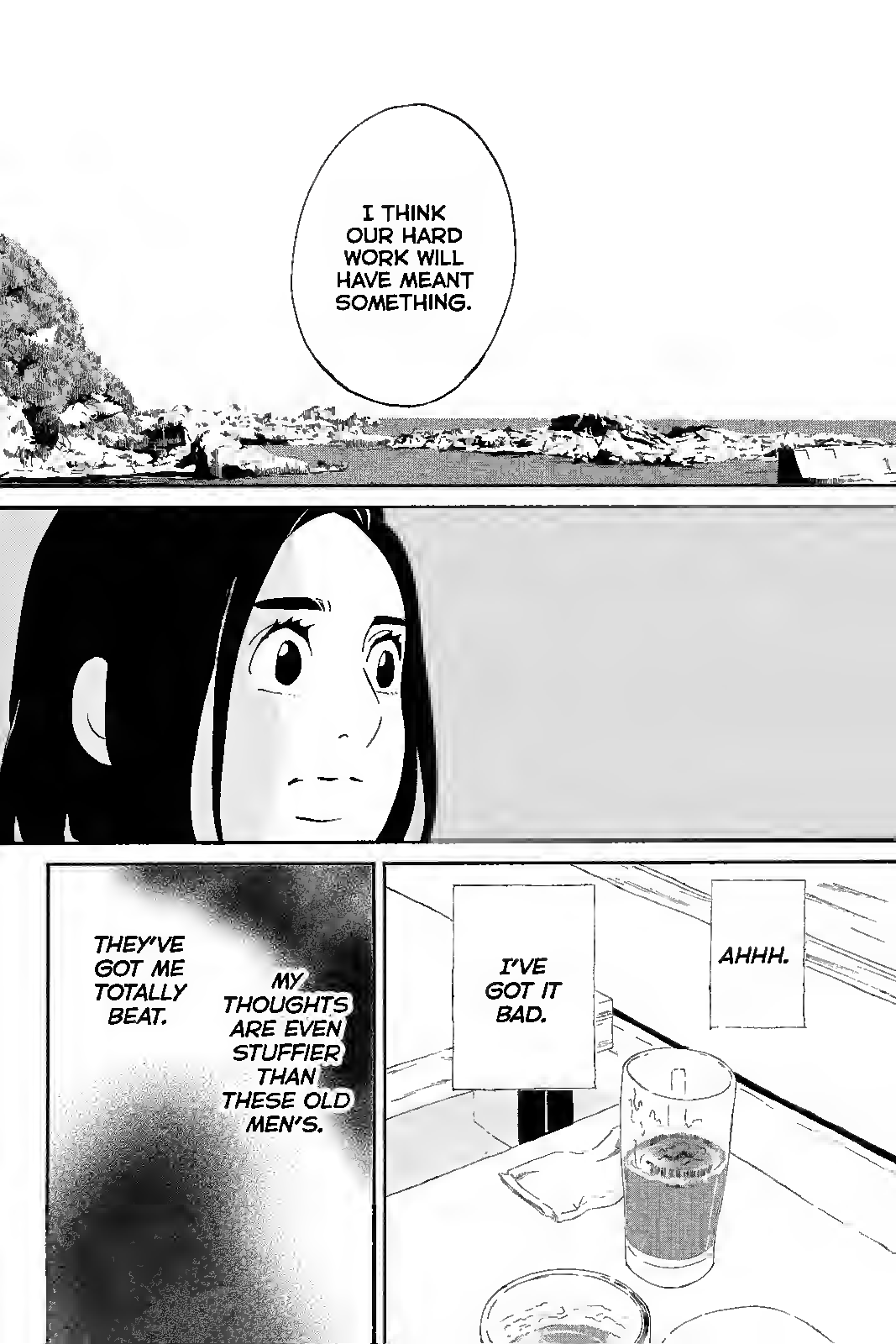

LADY
女の子
若い
YOUNG

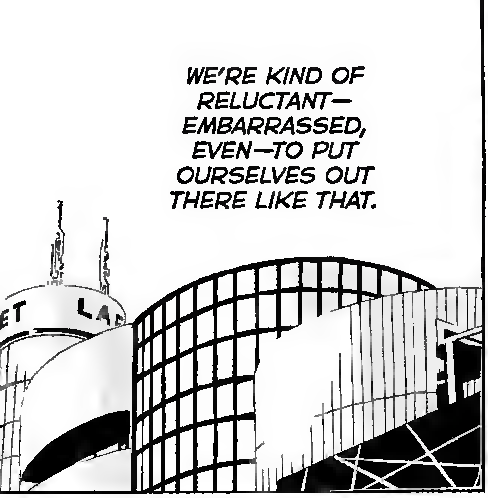

ACTRESS
女優
BOY, YOU'RE PRETTY. I THOUGHT AN ACTRESS WAS IN TOWN!
IF I WERE TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER, I'D PROPOSE TO YOU RIGHT HERE!
OH NO! YOU'RE PLENTY YOUNG!
I'M ALREADY 33!
OH NO! I'M NOT YOUNG!
TWIST
Drink up!
Here, drink up!
I was actually pretty good-looking back in the day!

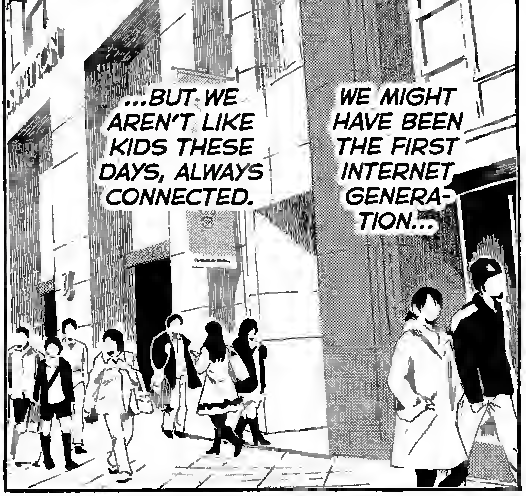
BUT WE REALLY ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU, MS. KAMATA.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF HOPES FOR THIS SERIES.
YEAH! WE WERE ALL TALKING ABOUT HOW TO TURN THIS PLACE BACK INTO THE KIND OF HOT SPRINGS TOWN YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE...
...AND TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE COULD DO WITH THE TOWN HALL'S TOURISM DEPART-MENT.


AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S NOTHING BUT US GEEZERS HERE, SO MAYBE WE CAN'T MAKE A TRENDY SERIES...
BUT IF A YOUNG WRITER LIKE YOU CAN WRITE US A SOLID SCRIPT ...
...I'M SURE EVEN WE CAN MAKE A GOOD SHOW.

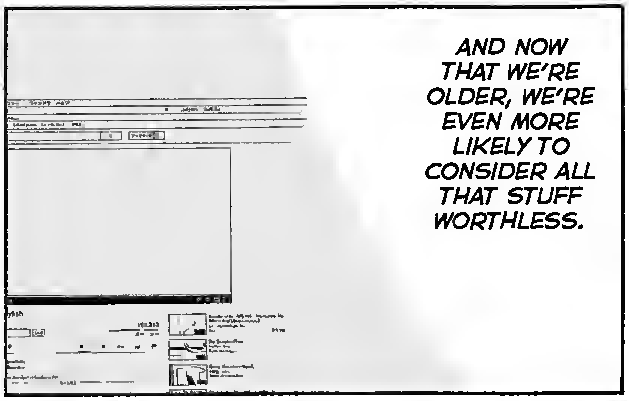

THIS IS AN AGE WHERE YOU CAN BROADCAST A SERIES OVER THE INTERNET FOR FREE.
IF WE WORK HARD TO MAKE A GOOD SHOW, I'M SURE IT WILL REACH SOMEONE OUT THERE IN JAPAN.
AND IF EVEN ONE PERSON THAT SEES THIS SERIES COMES TO VISIT OUR TOWN...


I THINK OUR HARD WORK WILL HAVE MEANT SOMETHING.
THEY'VE GOT ME TOTALLY BEAT.
MY THOUGHTS ARE EVEN STUFFIER THAN THESE OLD MEN'S.
I'VE GOT IT BAD.
AHHH.

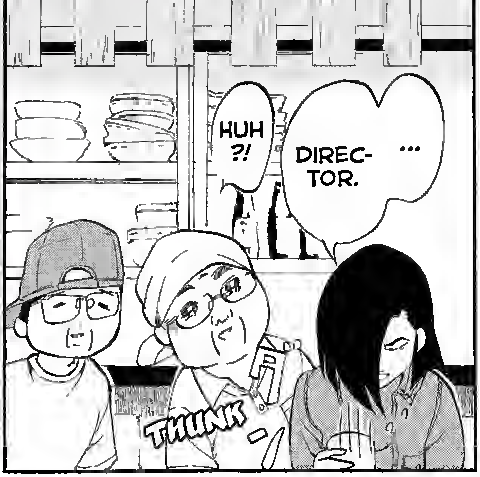

WE'RE KIND OF RELUCTANT— EMBARRASSED, EVEN—TO PUT OURSELVES OUT THERE LIKE THAT.


...BUT WE AREN'T LIKE KIDS THESE DAYS, ALWAYS CONNECTED.
WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST INTERNET GENERATION...

AND AT SOME POINT, WE GOT IN THE HABIT OF ALWAYS APPROACHING THINGS NEGATIVELY.


AND NOW THAT WE'RE OLDER, WE'RE EVEN MORE LIKELY TO CONSIDER ALL THAT STUFF WORTHLESS.

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
I FORGOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL.
SO I MOCKED AND DISMISSED THIS LITTLE PROJECT.

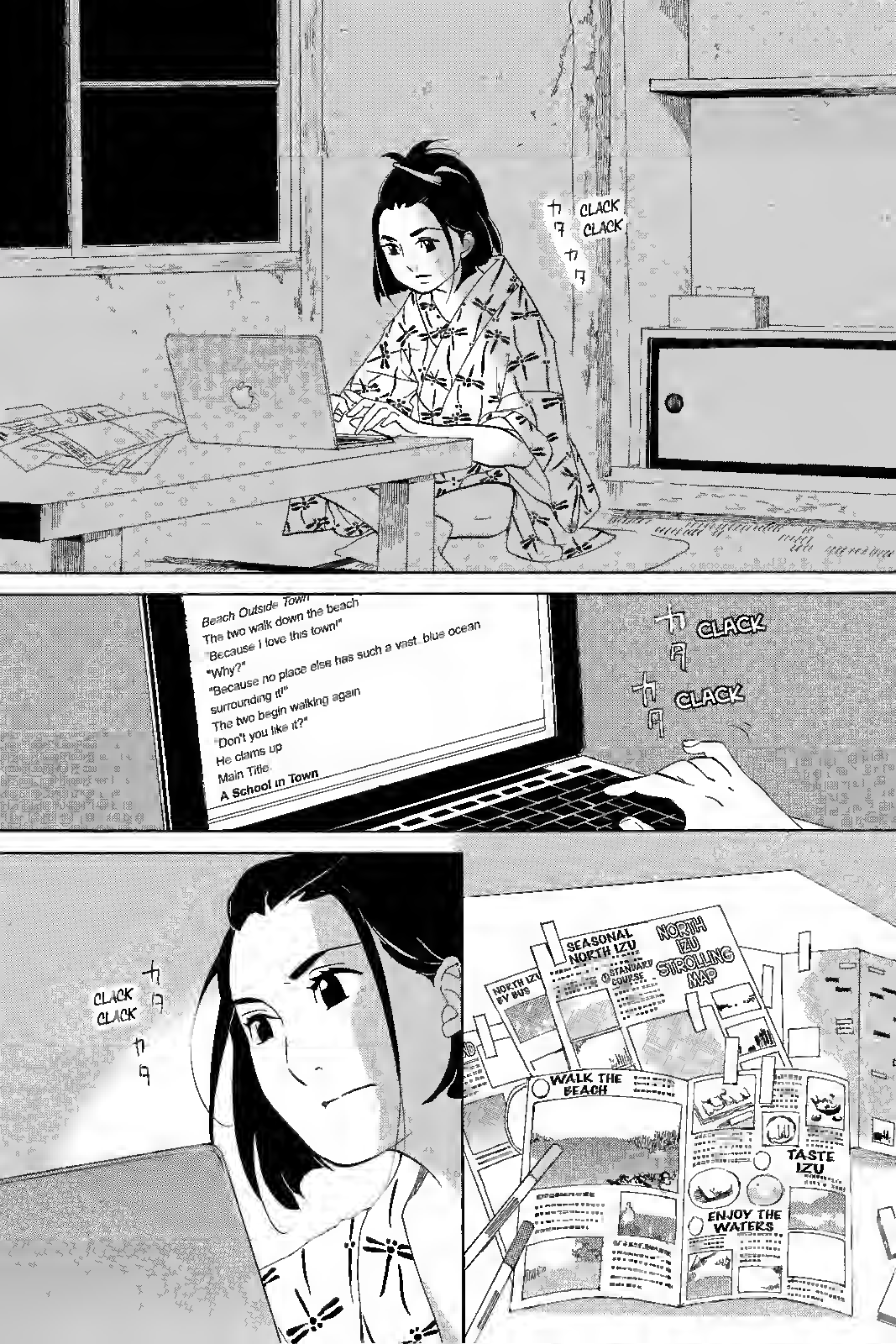


OF COURSE I CAN'T WRITE A GOOD SCRIPT WITH THAT PERSPEC- TIVE.

WHOA! YOU'RE DRUNK, MS. KAMATA!
LET'S MAKE A SHOW SO GOOD THE WHOLE TDWN'LL BE FLOODED WITH PEOPLE IT REACHED!
CRASH
ガシャン
No! Let's send it all over the wooorld !!
Oh man! Get me a rag!
A ha ha ha!
CRASH
ガシャン
ARGH!

PUB
HUH.
NORTH IZU?
YEP.
I'LL BET SHE'S EATING FRESH FISH AND DRINKING LOCAL-MADE SAKE AS WE SPEAK.
OH.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE SAKE TONIGHT TOO.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
WHAT?! RINKO!! YOU WENT ON A TRIP TO GET OVER YOUR BREAKUP?! YOU GOTTA INVITE US FOR THAT!!
IN FACT, WOW, SHE'S GOT A LOT OF FREE TIME!! SHE GOT HUNG OUT TO DRY AT WORK...
...AND I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF JEALOUS!!
NO...

IF SHE GETS DEAD DRUNK LIKE USUAL THIS TIME, EVEN I'LL GIVE UP.
割烹旅館
伊豆旅館
INN AND RESTAURANT
IZU RYOKAN

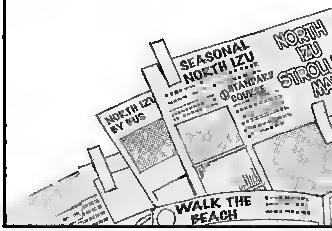

CLACK
CLACK
Beach Outside Town
The two walk down the beach
"Because I love this town!"
"Why?"
"Because no place else has such a vast blue ocean surrounding it!"
The two begin walking again
"Don't you like it?"
He clams up
Main Title
A School in Town
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
SEASONAL NORTH IZU
NORTH IZU STROLLING MAP
NORTH IZU BY BUS
STANDARD COURSE
WALK THE BEACH
TASTE IZU
ENJOY THE WATERS

I'LL WRITE.

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINTE.

LIKE THOSE MEN SAID...

NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE JOB IS.



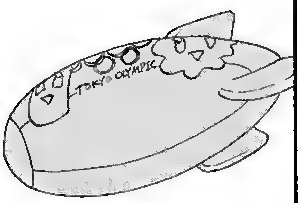
SO WHY WAS I SO BLIND?

THESE MIDDLE-AGED MEN FROM A PODUNK LITTLE TOWN COULD SEE THAT.

UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE DF ITS HUGE, CONSTANTLY CHANGING ADS ON EQUALLY HUGE BUILDINGS.
BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO TENDS TO MAKE YOU LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.
YOU HAVE TEA AT THDSE TRENDY CAFES THAT ARE ALWAYS POPPING UP THEN GOING UNDER.
...WRITTEN BY GDD KNDWS WHO, WITH ONLY A CATCHY HEADLINE GDING FDR IT.
YOU READ SOME HALF-ASSED NEWS ARTICLE ON THE INTERNET...
I LIKE TOKYO.
IT'S A GORGEOUS, STIMULATING, FUN TOWN...
PAYING ALL THAT MONEY FOR A PIECE OF CAKE ONLY TO FORGET HOW IT TASTED BY THE TIME YOU WALK OUT.

IT FEELS LIKE AS I GET OLDER, MY SENSE OF SELF IS MELTING INTO THE CITY.

I WONDER WHAT I'LL BE LIKE.



I WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE BY THE TIME THE OLYMPICS ARRIVE.

A TRANSPARENT, EMPTY OLD WOMAN...

I'LL PROBABLY BE ABSORBED BY THE CITY...

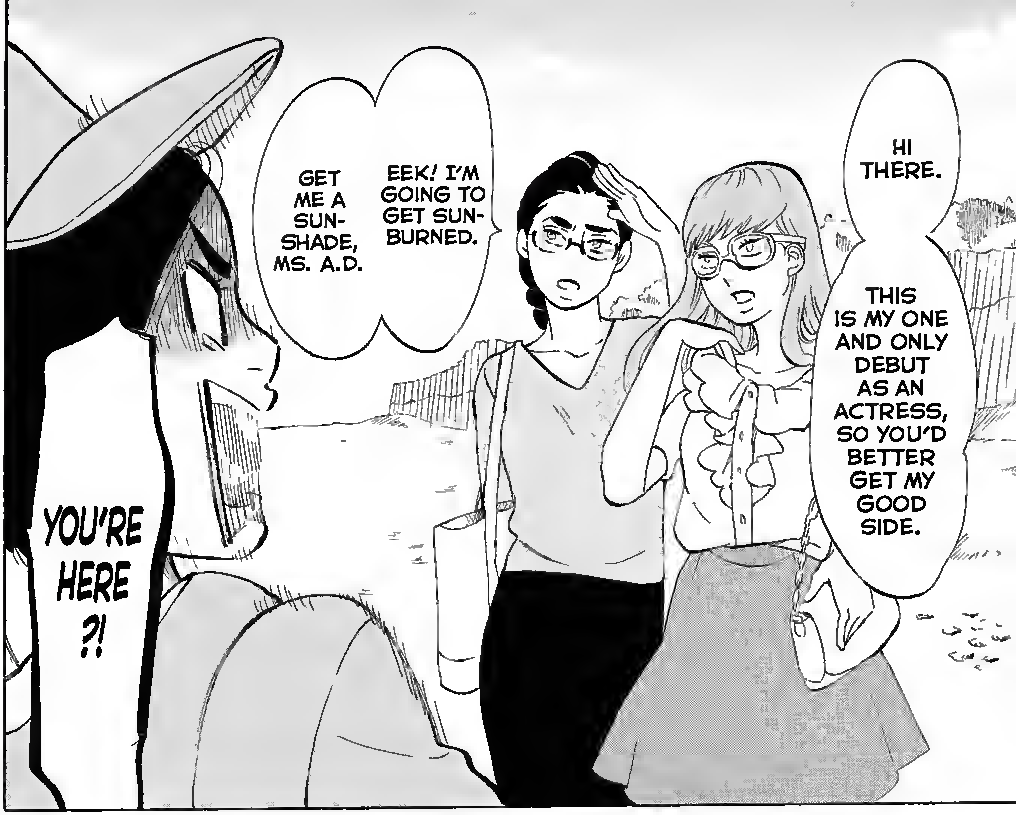
AN INVISIBLE WOMAN NOBODY NOTICES, LIVING IN TOKYO.
SKREEK
I'LL CLING TO HOPE, ONE MORE TIME.
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK.

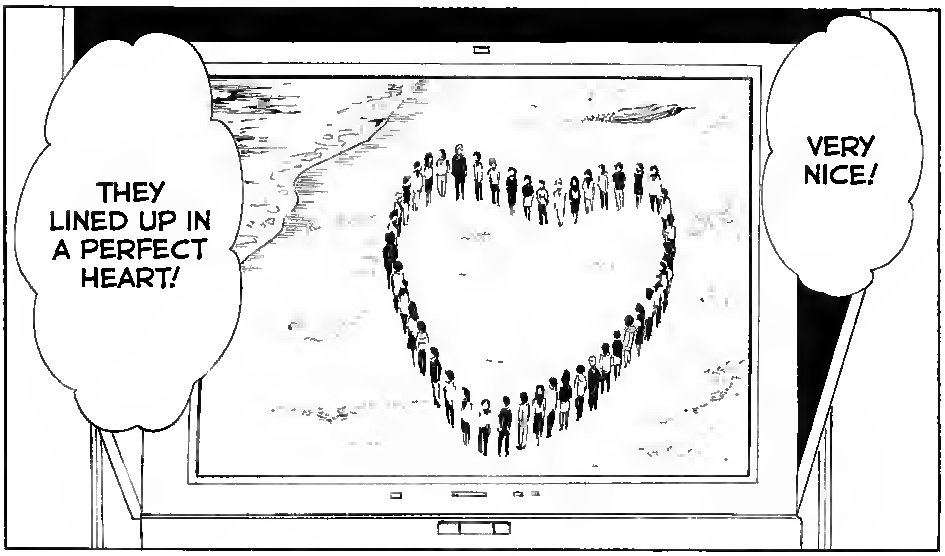
I'VE AT LEAST GOT TO KEEP WHATEVER'S LEFT OF MYSELF FROM MELTING AWAY.

LET'S WRITE A MESSAGE ON THE BEACH!
HUH?
NO ONE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT!
OF COURSE THEY CAN! YOU CAN SEE IT FROM THE OBSERVATION DECK ON NORTH IZU MISAKI!
HUUUH?!
YOU CAN'T SEE THAT FAR EVEN WITH PERFECT VISION!
DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT A WAY!
AND... CUT!
THAT WAS GREAT!
THANK YOU.
SHE REALLY IS A GOOD ACTOR FOR A LOCAL THEATER CLUB KID.
AND SHE'S CUTE TOO.
She'll bring a freshness we wouldn't get if we used a real actress.
THE OWNER OF THAT SEAFOOD RESTAURANT INTRODUCED US TO A GIRL THAT WAS A PERFECT FIT FOR YOUR SCRIPT, MS. KAMATA.
ALL RIGHT! NOW...
BRING IN THE EXTRAS!
MS. KAMATA, HELP GET THEM IN PLACE!
STOMP STOMP
OH! ROGER!

にょーん SPROING
HUH?!
THERE'S LIKE...
O... ONE...
REALLY BIG EXTRA...
BUT...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
SO YOU SPOTTED ME, EH? IN ONE SECOND FLAT.
OF COURSE I SPOTTED YOU!! IN FACT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?!
I BET YOU JUST SHOWED UP TO RAIN ON MY PARADE YET AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?!
YOU'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!

I CAME TO SEE THE PATHETIC FACE OF A WOMAN WHO RETREATED INTO WORK AFTER HER MARRIAGE FELL THROUGH.
MAYBE I AM.
YEAH.
GOOD FOR YOU. THEY'RE CALLING YOU "MS. KAMATA" AND FUSSING OVER YOU.
YEAH, YEAH.
I'M THE WRITER !!
I'M NOT THE A.D.!!
We don't have enough staff is all!
HURRY NOW! THE CLOUDS ARE COMING OUT!
WHA?!
ムカー
RARGH!!
MS. KAMATA! GET THEM IN PLACE QUICK!
LISTEN, MS. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. THEY'RE CALLING YOU.
HUH?!
AND I BROUGHT ALONG TWO MORE GUESTS WHO WANT TO BE FUSSED OVER.
OH.


YOU'RE HERE ?!
GET ME A SUN-SHADE, MS. A.D.
EEK! I'M GOING TO GET SUN-BURNED.
HI THERE.
THIS IS MY ONE AND ONLY DEBUT AS AN ACTRESS, SO YOU'D BETTER GET MY GOOD SIDE.

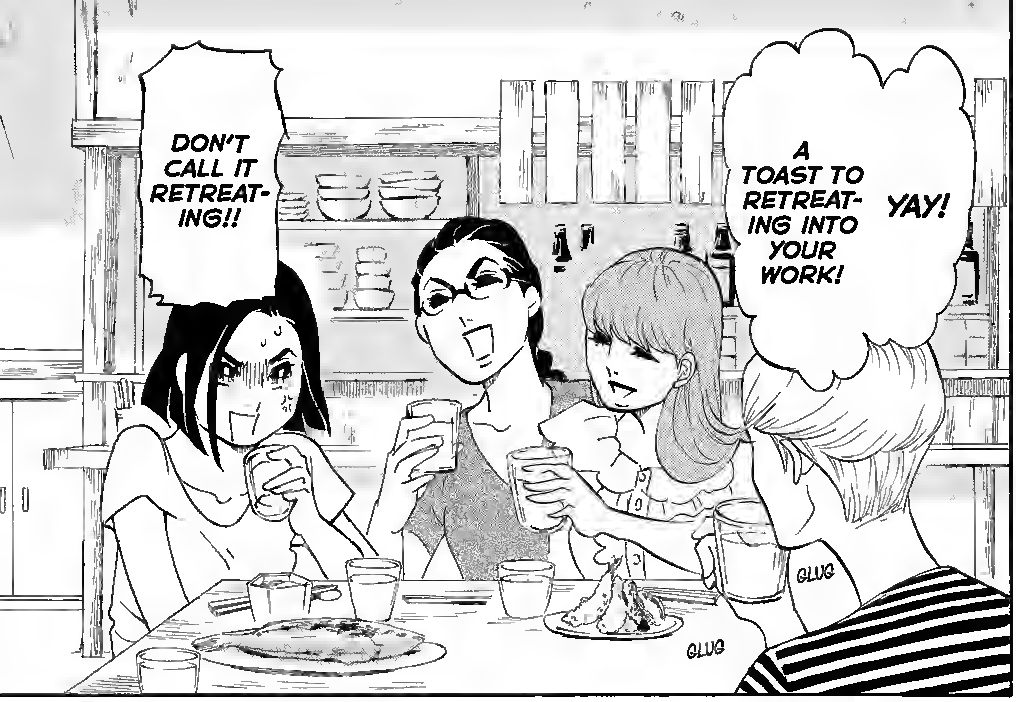

THEY LINED UP IN A PERFECT HEART!
VERY NICE!

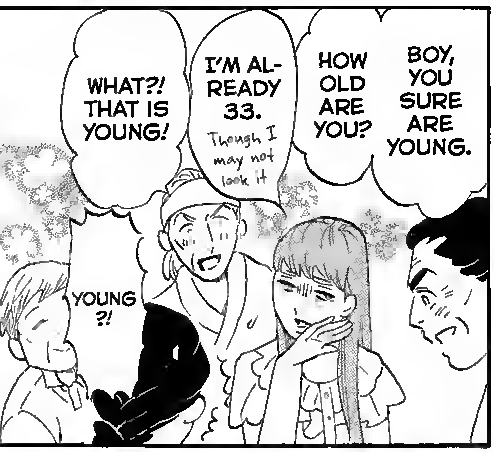
PHEW! THIS TURNED INTO A REAL NICE SCENE!
I'M GLAD WE FILMED THAT ON A DAY WITH GOOD WEATHER!
OH, WAIT A SECOND! RIGHT HERE! WHERE THE EXTRA TRIPPED!
MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THAT DURING THE END CREDITS.
AH, I GET YOU.
WHEN THE AUDIENCE GETS TO SEE BEHIND THE SCENES STUFF AND OUTTAKES DURING THE CREDITS, IT'S PRETTY FUN FOR THEM.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO USE THE PART WHERE YOU TRIPPED.
Yeesh. Because you were those high heels
NOOO! DON'T DO IT! YOU CAN SEE MY PANTIES!
CRASH
STOP IT, RINKO! CUT THAT!!
I'LL NEVER FIND A HUS-BAND!!
DON'T WORRY. YOU WON'T ANYWAY.
RIGHT.
There, there.
PLEASE, DIRECTOR! PLEASE DON'T USE THAT! IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!
WHUMP
HUH?!
SHUT UP!

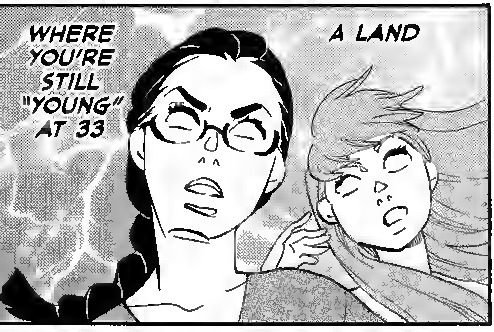
YOU MAY ONLY BE AN EXTRA, BUT THE SECONO YOU AGREED TO BE PART OF THIS PRODUCTION, YOU GAVE FINAL SAY TO THE OIRECTOR!!
SO STOP COMPLAINING AND CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY YOU EVEN GOT TO BE ON CAMERA!! YOU NINCOMPOOP !!
RINKO ...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALL BETTER NOW...
YEAH ...
THAT'S SO... WONDER-FUL.
YEAH ...
WHY DON'T YOU TWO GIVE IT A REST TOO?
TMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

AND JUST RETREAT INTO YOUR WORK LIKE HER.
CUT OUT ALL THE CHEATING AND SECOND WOMAN STUFF...
ANYWAY ...
YOU REALLY THINK THERE ARE THAT MANY SINGLE, GOOD MEN OUT THERE?
AND EVEN IF THERE ARE, THEY WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH THE TWO OF YOU AS YOU ARE NOW.
SMILE

SMILE SMILE ニコニコ
HE'S SMILING WHILE HE SAYS SUCH AWFUL THINGS...
...HE'S SMILING ...
...BECAUSE ONCE THIS IS OVER HE GETS TO DRINK THE LOCAL SAKE AND EAT THE LOCAL FISH?
IN FACT, HE'S IN AN AWFULLY GOOD MOOD TODAY.


DON'T CALL IT RETREATING!!
A TOAST TO RETREATING INTO YOUR WORK!
YAY!
GLUG
GLUG


WHAT?! THAT IS YOUNG!
I'M ALREADY 33.
Though I may not look it
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
BOY, YOU SURE ARE YOUNG.
YOUNG ?!


WHERE YOU'RE STILL "YOUNG" AT 33
A LAND

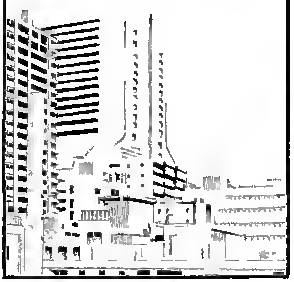
BOY!
TWO MORE YOUNG, HOT BABES CAME TO OUR TOWN AT ONCE...
ARE YOU ACTRESSES IN THAT SHOW THEY'RE FILMING?
YES, WE ARE.

THE SAKE'S GOOD.
GLUG
グビ
GLUG
グビ
THE FISH IS GOOD TOO!
YEAH, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE'LL ALL LIVE HERE!
I'M ABAN-DONING TOKYO.
ME TOO.
RINKO. I'M GONNA LIVE HERE.
Hey
AHHH.
THE MILT AND LIVER DIDN'T SHOW UP TONIGHT.
...AFTER-WORK SAKE IS A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER.
I'M REMINDED THAT COMPARED TO THE SAKE WE DRINK WHILE COM-PLAINING ON OUR GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT...
AND I PRAY THAT THEY NEVER...
SHOW UP AGAIN, BABY.

ACT
15
POLKA DOT WOMAN

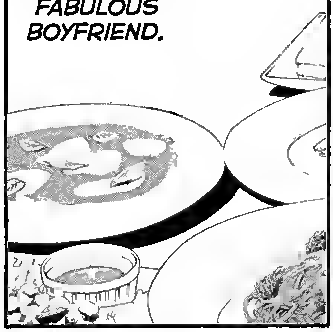
I READ IN SOME MAGAZINE THAT WHEN YOUR JOB GOES SMOOTHLY, YOUR LOVE LIFE STARTS TO GO WELL TOO.

THE COUNTRYSIDE IN IZU WAS NICE, BUT TOKYO HAS ITS OWN PLEASURES.



WORK HARD DURING THE DAY.

AND AT NIGHT, HAVE A LIGHT DINNER AT A TAPAS BAR WITH YOUR FABULOUS BOYFRIEND.

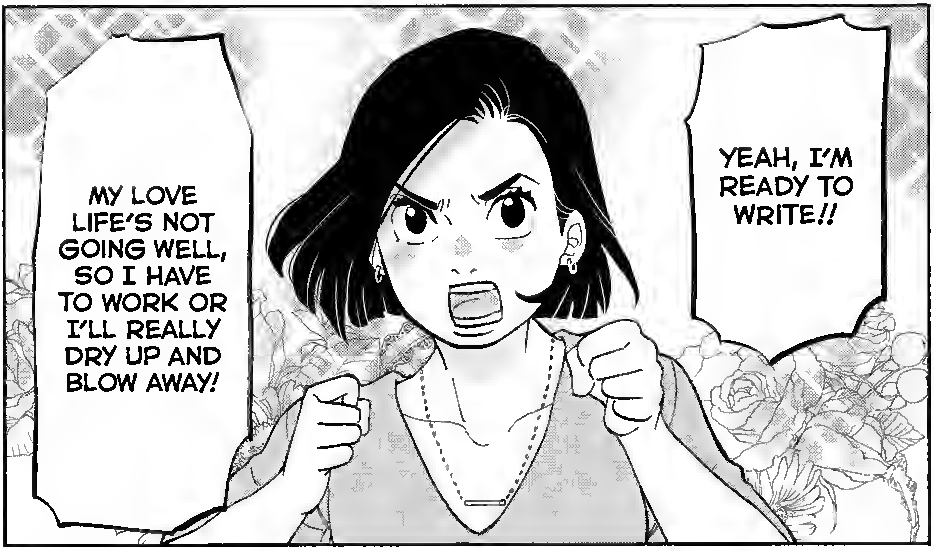


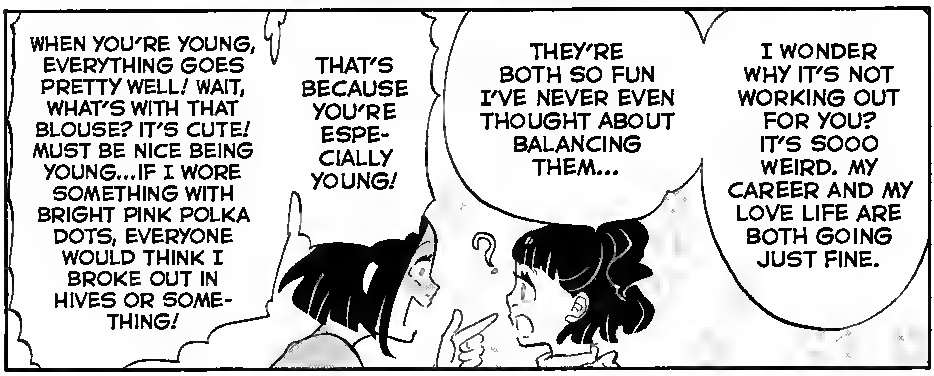
BALANCE YOUR CAREER AND YOUR LOVE LIVE.

RINKO KAMATA, AGE 33.
I HAVE EMERGED FROM A LONG TUNNEL AND... FINALLY GOT BACK ON MY FEET!!
MAMI!
HOW ABOUT WE GO HALF AND HALF ON THIS OFFICE?

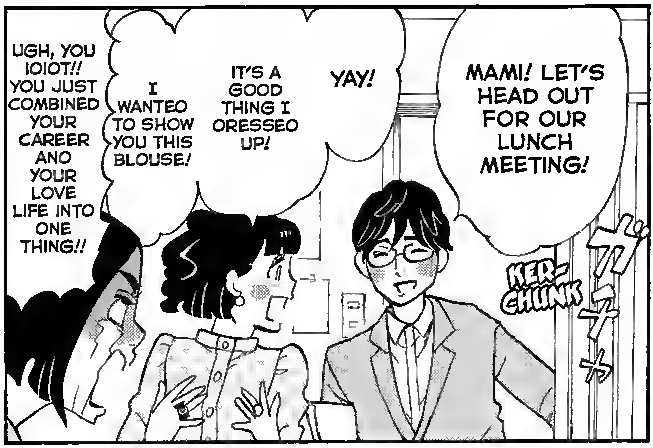
I DECIDED TO GO TO WORK AGAIN!!
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP!! BUT!! FOR NOW!!
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP!!
SO YOU REALLY DID GIVE UP ON MARRIAGE, HUH?
...RINKO ...
IT'LL BE LIKE ONE OF THOSE FOREIGN SHOWS!! HOW COOL IS THAT?!
IT'LL BE A JOINT OFFICE!! HOW'S THAT?!
WE'LL EACH GET HALF THE DESK, AND IF YOU WANT YOU CAN EVEN PUT UP A DIVIDER!!
I THINK I CAN HANDLE HALF!!
BUT HALF !!
I'VE BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE AND I'M NOT GETTING ANY DECENT WORK, SO IT'D BE TOUGH TO PAY THE WHOLE RENT!!
THIS WILL BE MY SIDE AND THAT WILL BE YOURS!
WE'LL DRAW A LINE FROM HERE TO HERE!

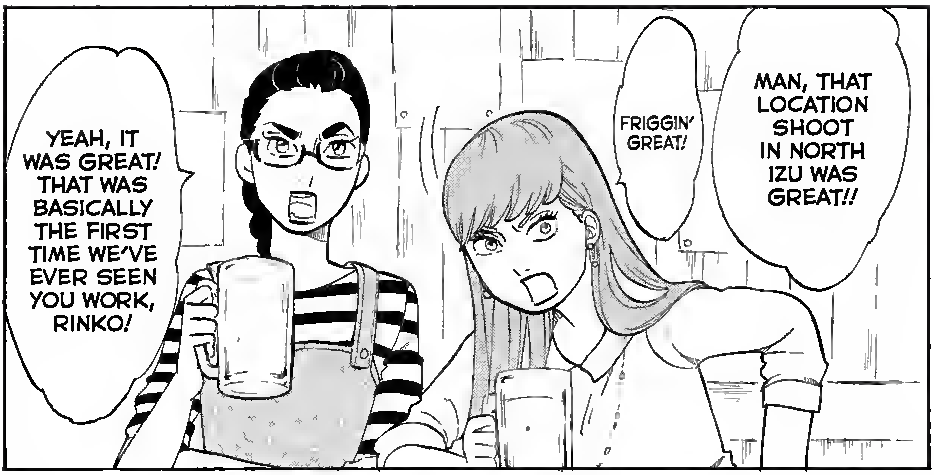
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY ABOUT AN OLD WOMAN LIKE ME...
OH, I BET YOU'LL WANT THE SIDE FARTHEST FROM THE AIR CONDITIONER, SINCE YOU GET COLD EASILY, RIGHT?
THEN PICK THE SIDE YOU WANT, RINKO.
AND WHEN WE SPEND THE NIGHT, I'LL USE THE ROOM IN BACK TOO! THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
I'M IN!!
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
THAT WAS YOU! SORRY FOR MAKING A TALENTED GIRL LIKE YOU DO SUCH MENIAL LABOR!
AS YOUR ASSISTANT, I CLEANED UP THE EMPTY CHU-HI CANS LITTERING THE FLOOR BY YOUR BED EVERY NIGHT!
OH, I KNOW!
IN FACT, I'VE NEVER HAD A MAN OVER IN THIS PLACE!
SURE, IT'S OKAY! I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE PLANS TO HAVE ANY MEN OVER!
Use it how you like!!
SEEING YOU EXCITED TO WRITE AGAIN!!
EEK!
BUT I'M SO GLAD!!

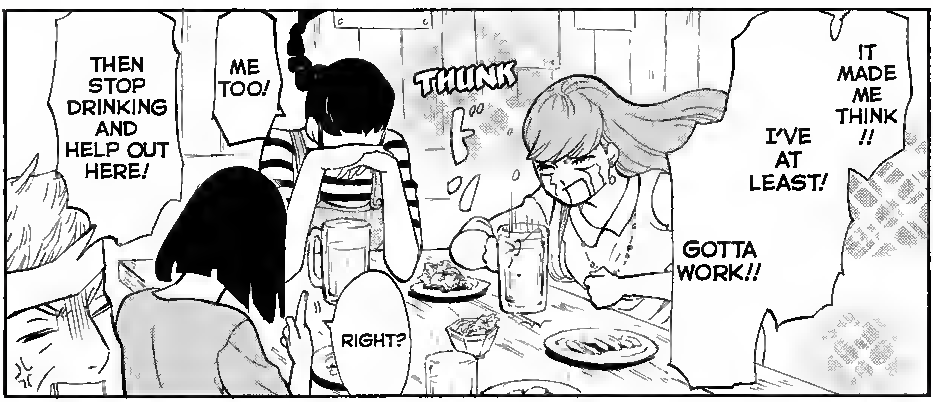

MY LOVE LIFE'S NOT GOING WELL, SO I HAVE TO WORK OR I'LL REALLY DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
YEAH, I'M READY TO WRITE!!

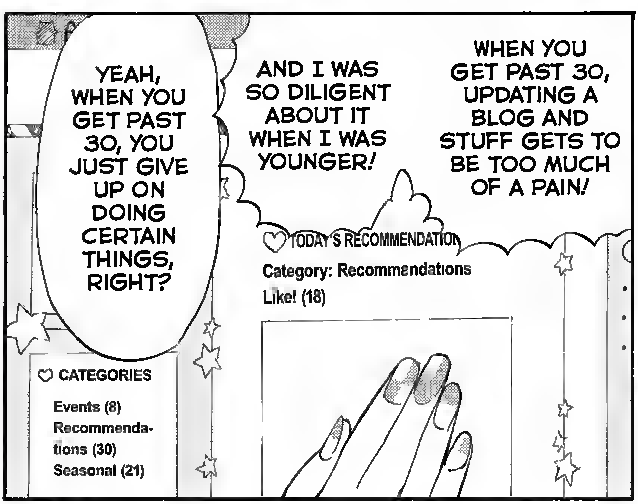

WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, EVERYTHING GOES PRETTY WELL! WAIT, WHAT'S WITH THAT BLOUSE? IT'S CUTE! MUST BE NICE BEING YOUNG...IF I WORE SOMETHING WITH BRIGHT PINK POLKA DOTS, EVERYONE WOULD THINK I BROKE OUT IN HIVES OR SOMETHING!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ESPECIALLY YOUNG!
THEY'RE BOTH SO FUN I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT BALANCING THEM...
I WONDER WHY IT'S NOT WORKING OUT FOR YOU? IT'S SOOO WEIRD. MY CAREER AND MY LOVE LIFE ARE BOTH GOING JUST FINE.

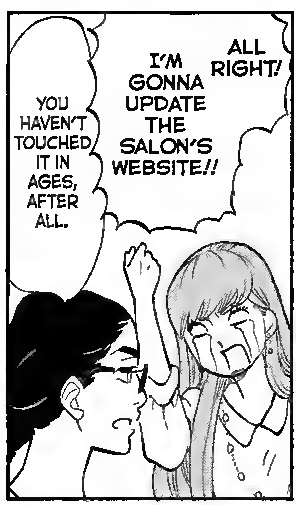
酒肴 呑んべえ
NONBEE

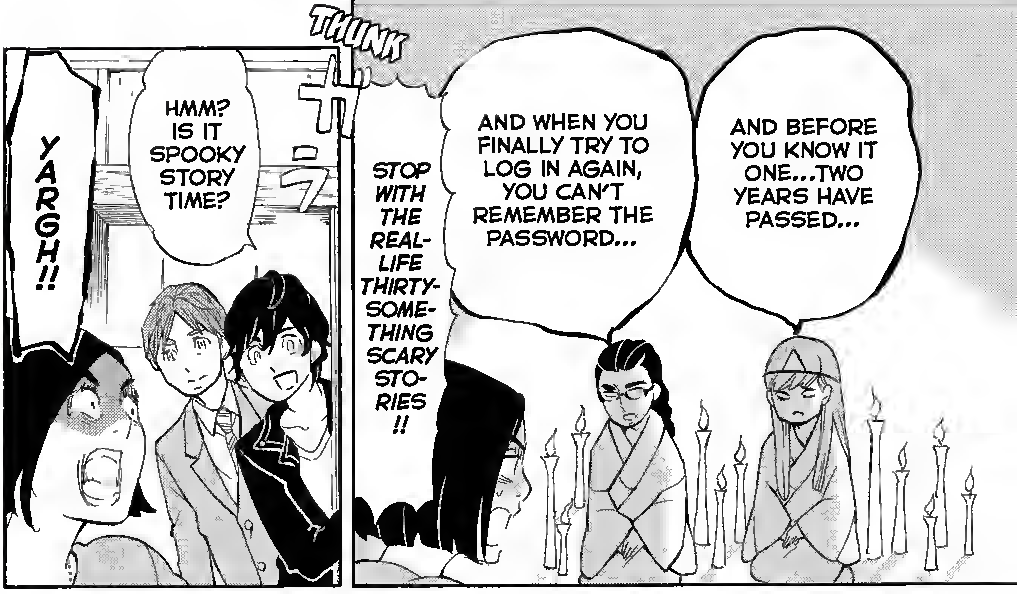

UGH, YOU IDIOT!! YOU JUST COMBINED YOUR CAREER AND YOUR LOVE LIFE INTO ONE THING!!
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS BLOUSE!
IT'S A GOOD THING I DRESSED UP!
YAY!
MAMI! LET'S HEAD OUT FOR OUR LUNCH MEETING!
HER-CHUNK


YEAH, IT WAS GREAT! THAT WAS BASICALLY THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER SEEN YOU WORK, RINKO!
FRIGGIN' GREAT!
MAN, THAT LOCATION SHOOT IN NORTH IZU WAS GREAT!!


THEN STOP DRINKING AND HELP OUT HERE!
ME TOO!
RIGHT?
THUNK
IT MADE ME THINK !!
I'VE AT LEAST!
GOTTA WORK!!


YEAH, WHEN YOU GET PAST 30, YOU JUST GIVE UP ON DOING CERTAIN THINGS, RIGHT?
AND I WAS SO DILIGENT ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER!
WHEN YOU GET PAST 30, UPDATING A BLOG AND STUFF GETS TO BE TOO MUCH OF A PAIN!
TODAY'S RECOMMENDATION
Category: Recommendations
Like! (18)
CATEGORIES
Events (8)
Recommendations (30)
Seasonal (21)

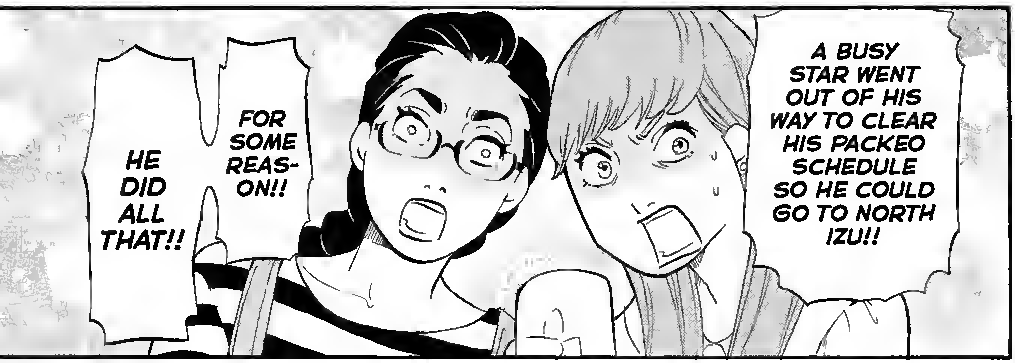

YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT IN AGES, AFTER ALL..
I'M GONNA UPDATE THE SALON'S WEBSITE!!
ALL RIGHT!


YARGH!!
HMM? IS IT SPOOKY STORY TIME?
THINK
STOP WITH THE REAL-LIFE THIRTY-SOMETHING SCARY STORIES !!
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY TRY TO LOG IN AGAIN, YOU CAN'T REMEMBER THE PASSWORD...
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT ONE...TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED...

I WOULDN'T INVITE YOU FOR THAT!! THAT WAS WORK! WORK!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU INVITE US?
I HEAR YOU WENT TO IZU?
Don't bar sit beside me!
THE ORIGINS OF OUR THIRTY-SOMETHING SCARY STORIES ARE HERE IN THE FLESH!!
The affair and the second!
STOP PUTTING IT LIKE THAT !!

HUH?!
NO, THIS WAS A DIFFERENT, LOCAL PROJECT ...
HMM?
WORK? YOU MEAN THAT SERIES WITH KEY?

I MEAN, HE WENT TOO, RIGHT?
TO IZU.
YEAH, HE DID.
HE TOTALLY CAME.
GASP
HUH?!
WAS KEY IN THIS TOO?
HUH?!


A BUSY STAR WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CLEAR HIS PACKED SCHEDULE SO HE COULD GO TO NORTH IZU!!
FOR SOME REASON!!
HE DID ALL THAT!!

NOBODY WOULD RIDE THE NON-EXPRESS TRAIN ALL THE WAY DOWN TO ATAMI JUST TO LAUGH AT SOMEONE!!
HE PROBABLY CAME TO RAIN ON MY PARADE, RIGHT?
WHY ELSE?
BECAUSE, WELL!!
WHY?!
WHY?
UH?!
WHY, RINKO?!
FLASH!!
WOW.
WHY?

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MUST THOROUGHLY DISCUSS THIS TOPIC IMMEDIATELY.
YES, JUST US GIRLS!
LET'S CHANGE VENUES.
IT'S NO USE, KOYUKI.
GRAB
HUH? HEY, WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU—

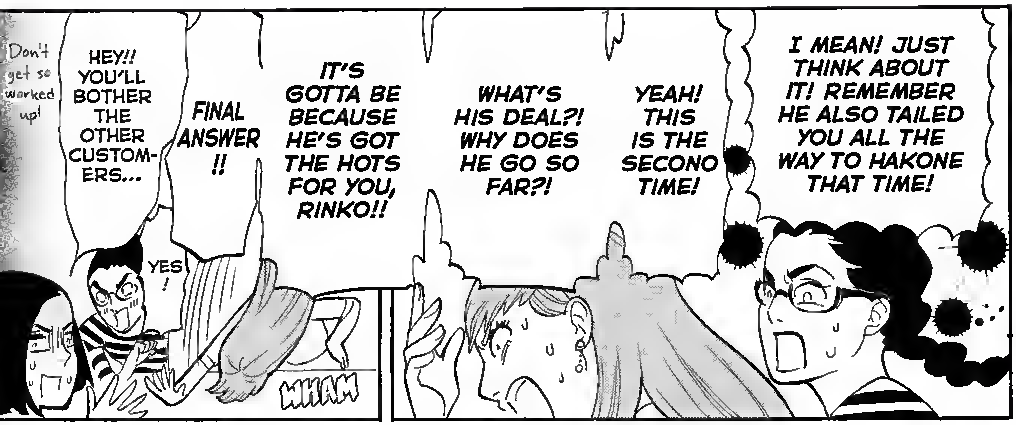
HUH?
AREN'T YOU TWO SEEING EACH OTHER?
You and Key
NO, NO, NO!
NOT EVEN CLOSE.

BOOM
BOOM
BA-BOOM

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
AFTER WE RE-ASSEMBLE ELSE-WHERE...
IT'S A FOUR-ALARMER !!!!
HUUUH?!
BOING
Benny's

ARE YOU SURE HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU?
グランドMENU
EXCUSE ME. I'D LIKE TO ORDER THIS DOMESTIC FRIED CHICKEN WITH GRATED RADISH AND PONZU SAUCE MEAL WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR ALL THE FIXIN'S!
HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR YOU!! HE'S GOT TO!!
THERE'S NO OTHER REASON FOR HIM TO FOLLOW YOU ALL THE WAY OUT THERE!!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE WOULDN'T USE UP HIS PRECIOUS OFF TIME TO GO SO FAR, SO FAR, SO FAR OUT OF HIS WAY!!
NO, IT'S NOT LONG BY SHIN-KANSEN.
WHAP WHAP WHAP
WELL, HE DID FORCE ME TO TAKE THAT JOB, SO HE WAS PROBABLY JUST URIOUS OW IT WAS NING UT.
WHAM
IN FACT !!

HE WOULDN'T HAVE SEX WITH SOME WOMAN HE DOESN'T LIKE AT ALL, RIGHT?
MAYBE JUST FOR FUN?
ACTU- ALLY, HE WAS PRETTY DRUNK AT THE TIME, SO...
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU'D BANG ONE OF OUR CUS- TOMERS IF YOU WERE DRUNK ?!
Hi!
NO, I WOULDN'T DO THAT...
SEE!! SEE!! SEE!!
EX- ACTLY!! YOU WON'T SLEEP WITH JUST ANYONE!! BECAUSE YOU'RE HUMAN!!
EVEN IF I GOT FALLING-DOWN DRUNK, I'D NEVER DREAM OF SLEEPING WITH SOMEONE WHO WASN'T MY TYPE!!
ME EITH- ER!!


Don't get so worked up!
HEY!! YOU'LL BOTHER THE OTHER CUSTOMERS...
FINAL ANSWER !!
YES!
IT'S GOTTA BE BECAUSE HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR YOU, RINKO!!
WHAT'S HIS DEAL?! WHY DOES HE GO SO FAR?!
YEAH! THIS IS THE SECONO TIME!
I MEAN! JUST THINK ABOUT IT! REMEMBER HE ALSO TAILED YOU ALL THE WAY TO HAKONE THAT TIME!
MMM

IF I'D...UM... HANDLED THINGS MORE SKILLFULLY... AS A WOMAN...
AFTER WE... DID IT THAT ONE TIME...
IF... THEN...
CLINK カチャ

...NO, I STILL DON'T REALLY THINK SO...
BUT ...
Sorry that's kind of an old reference
THE IT HAPPENS EXPEDI-TION PARTY!
NO! IT HAPPENS! IT HAPPENS! IT HAPPENS!
THEN MAYBE ...
NO, IT'D NEVER HAPPEN.
IF, LIKE HE SAID... I HADN'T IMMEDIATELY REPORTED IT TO YOU TWO OVER LINE...
I did it.
I gone and done it.

...
THEN...
CLINK
THEY'RE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT!!
OUTSIDE THE 23RD WARDS!!
WE'RE NOT TALKING NAKANO HERE!!
I KNOW, RIGHT?! HAKONE AND IZU!!
SURPRISE ME TWICE BY FOLLOWING ME TO FAR OFF PLACES, SO...
YEAH, HE DID KIND OF... WELL...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WH-WH-
WH-
WHAT KAORI SAYS IS CORRECT.
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
...IS YOUR FEELINGS!!
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT...
HUH?! MY FEELINGS?
WAIT!!
FLINCH

RINKO.
NO, I...
DO YOU LIKE HIM?
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT EACH OTHER'S FAILED RELATIONSHIPS.
WE'VE REVEALED ALL SORTS OF EMBARRASSING THINGS ABOUT OURSELVES TO EACH OTHER OVER THE YEARS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WITH EACH OTHER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.
WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT OUR LOVE LIVES...
...!
DO YOU HATE HIM?
DO YOU LIKE HIM?
WE AREN'T GOING TO LAUGH AT YOU.
SO BE HONEST WITH US.

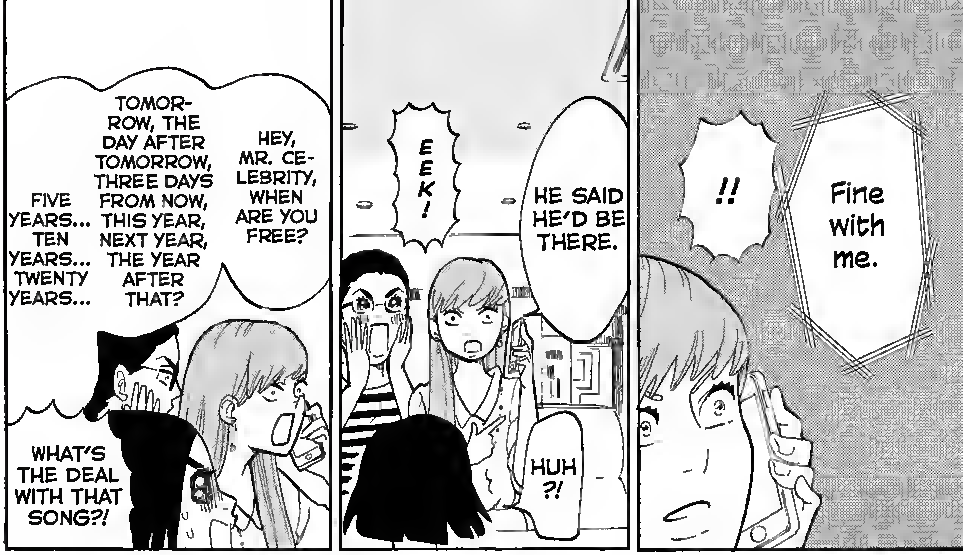
IS THAT EVERY-THING YOU ORDERED, MA'AM?
OH.
YES.
THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT!
SLUMP
ONE DOMESTIC FRIED CHICKEN WITH GRATED RADISH AND PONZU SAUCE MEAL WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S.
I—
RINKO WAS ABOUT TO SPILL HER GUTS!!
I...
Are you stupid or?
HEY!! WE'RE AT AN IMPOR-TANT PART HERE!
MENU
OH! I'LL HAVE THE CREAM ANMITSU!
I GUESS I WANT TO WIPE THAT SMUG LOOK OFF HIS FACE...
HEAR HER OUT!
RE-STRAIN YOUR-SELF, KAORI MY DEAR !!
RINKO, LET ME HAVE THESE PICKLES.
I wanna eat 'em bad.
BUT...
FOR SURE THAT I, UM... LIKE HIM...
CAN'T SAY...

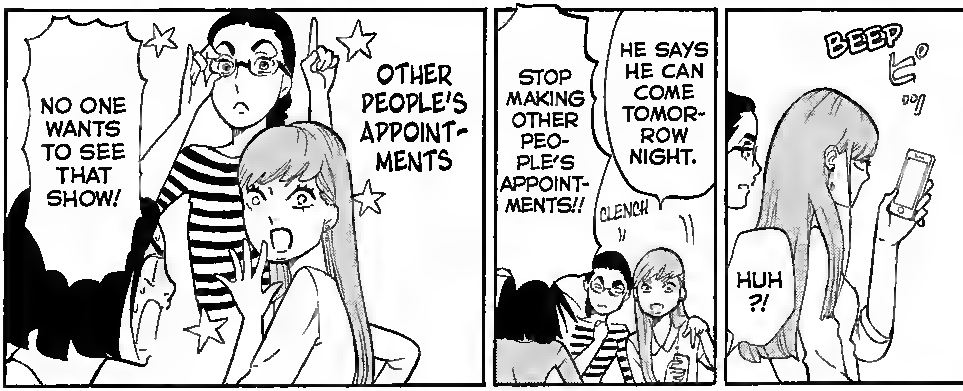
I MEAN ...
EVEN AT THIS AGE...
I GUESS WHAT HAPPENED DID HURT ME...
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I CAN'T THINK OF MYSELF AS LUCKY FOR HAVING DONE IT ONCE WITH A YOUNGER GUY...
SO I WANT TO SHOW HIM UP AT WORK.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT WORK RIGHT NOW.
HUH ?!
I SAID WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT WORK RIGHT NOW!!
YAAARGH!!
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT WORK, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FEELINGS, YA MORON !!

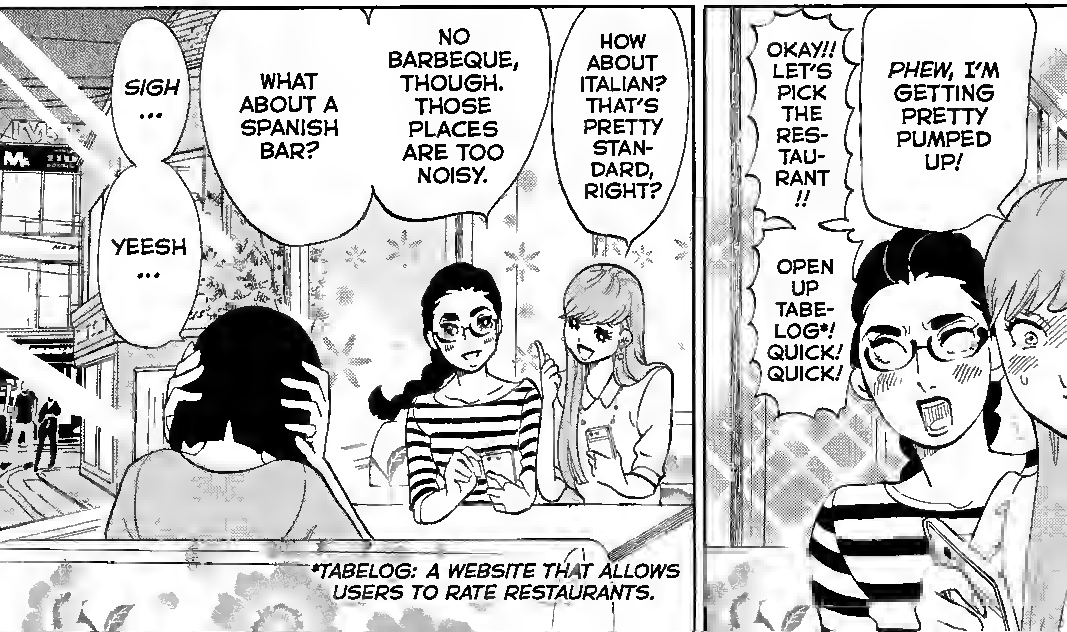
OUIJA BOARD, O OUIJA BOARD, DOES RINKO LOVE KEY?
OH! IT MOVED!
STOP IT!!
Don't regress to childhood on me!!
ONE CREAM ANMITSU.
OUIJA BOARD, THANK YOU. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS ANMITSU AS AN OFFERING.
NO! NO! NO! DON'T THANK THAT !!
HUFF HUFF
ALL RIGHT!
INVITE HIM TO DINNER!
SINCE THE IZU JOB HE SENT YOU WENT WELL, THANK HIM...
BY INVITING HIM...
...TO DINNER!!
NO WAY!!
ALL RIGHT, INVITE HIM RIGHT NOW.
GIVE US YOUR PHONE.
I-I CAN'T! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS LINE ADDRESS!!
Hand it over!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME, YOU MONSTERS?!
BEEP
RINKO'S PHONE NUMBER IS XXX-XXXX.
AH! IN FACT, THIS IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE! JUST HAVE HIM CALL RINKO!
HIS PHONE NUMBER WILL WORK TOO.
HELLO? RYO? TELL ME HOW TO GET INTO CONTACT WITH KEY, OKAY?
BEEP
STOP COMPRESSING EVERYTHING!
STOP THAT!
THE FACT THAT WE STILL HAVE TO DO THAT AT THIS AGE IS SO PATHETIC I CAN'T STAND IT!
WE'VE ALWAYS GIVEN EACH OTHER THAT EXTRA PUSH WHEN NECESSARY. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
THIS IS FEMALE FRIENDSHIP! HAVE YOU LEARNED ITS POWER?
Hello?
ANSWER THE PHONE, RINKO!!
ANSWER IT!!
STOP IT!!!!!
HE'S CALLING ALREADY!!
ARGH!!
JINGA-LINGA-LINGA-LING
SEE? YOU'VE GOT A SHOT!

WHAT?
NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
UM!
OH! THAT THING IN IZU WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, SO!
Oh. Did it?
LISTEN!
RINKO SAYS "HOW ABOUT DINNER ON ME BY WAY OF THANKS"?
WHOMP
HEY!
STOP THAT! WHAT ARE YOU, IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
Dinner?
BON BON
TH-THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW?
THE EXPERIENCE REMINDED ME OF THE JOYS OF WORK.
HEY!! STOP THANKING HIM LIKE AN IDIOT!!

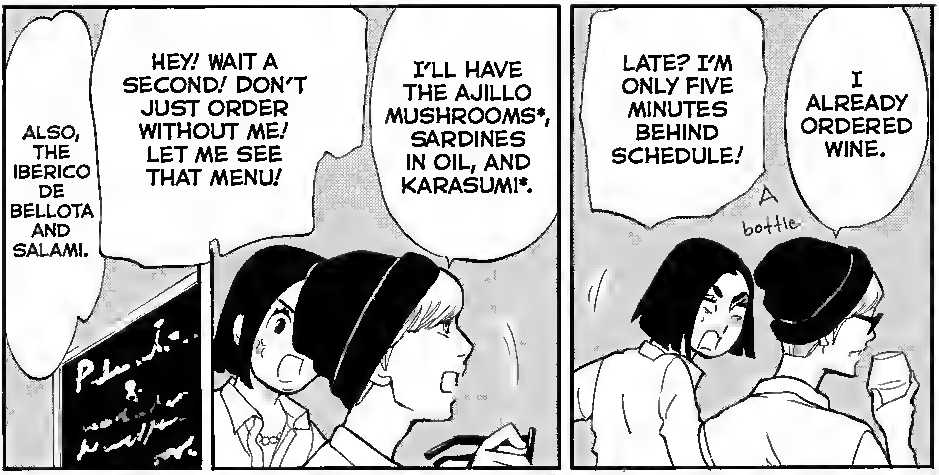

Fine with me.
!!
EEK!
HE SAID HE'D BE THERE.
HUH?!
HEY, MR. CELEBRITY, WHEN ARE YOU FREE?
TOMORROW, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, THREE DAYS FROM NOW, THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR, THE YEAR AFTER THAT?
FIVE YEARS... TEN YEARS... TWENTY YEARS...
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT SONG?!



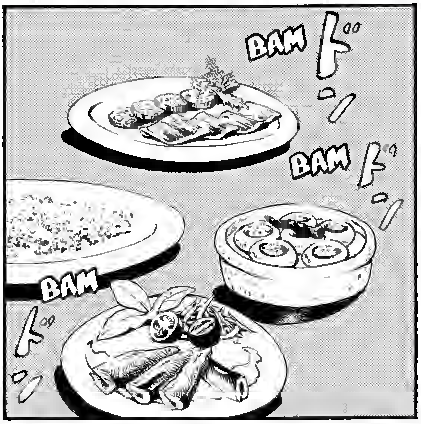

PHEW, I'M GETTING PRETTY PUMPED UP!
OKAY!! LET'S PICK THE RESTAURANT!!
OPEN UP TABELOG*! QUICK! QUICK!
HOW ABOUT ITALIAN? THAT'S PRETTY STANDARD, RIGHT?
NO BARBEQUE, THOUGH. THOSE PLACES ARE TOO NOISY.
WHAT ABOUT A SPANISH BAR?
SIGH...
YEESH...

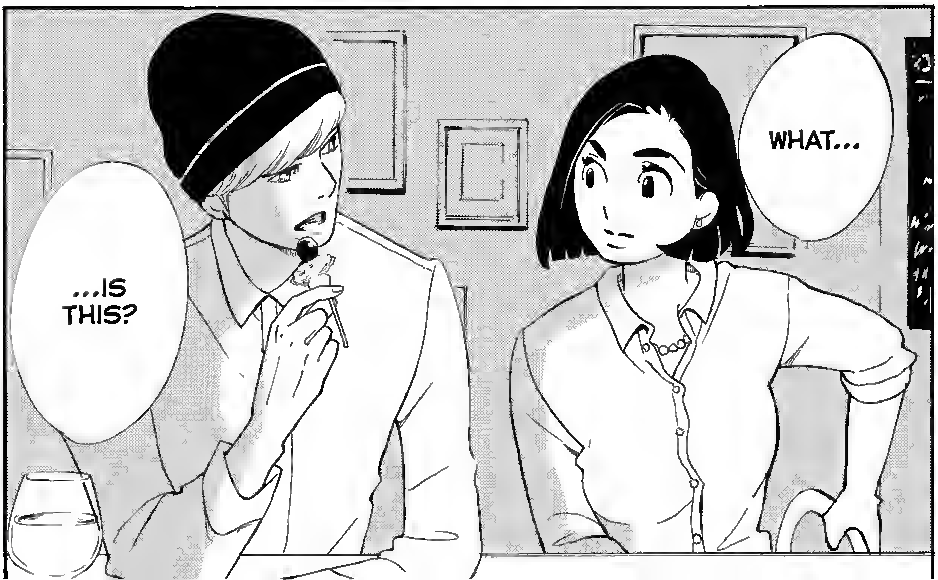
*TABELOG: A WEBSITE THAT ALLOWS USERS TO RATE RESTAURANTS.

WELL, YOU DO HAVE A POINT THERE ...
YOU ALREADY SLEPT WITH HIM ONCE. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT HAVING DINNER WITH HIM?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
SOMETIMES THESE GIRLFRIEND RAMPAGES ARE NECESSARY.
DON'T BE SILLY.
No matter how old they get...
WHY ARE GIRLFRIENDS ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
AFTER ALL THIS TIME FOR DINNER...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
BUT FOR SOME REASON... SEEING HIM NOW...
HNGH!
YOU'RE LATE!


ALSO, THE IBERICO DE BELLOTA AND SALAMI.
HEY! WAIT A SECOND! DON'T JUST ORDER WITHOUT ME! LET ME SEE THAT MENU!
I'LL HAVE THE AJILLO MUSHROOMS*, SARDINES IN OIL, AND KARASUMI*.
LATE? I'M ONLY FIVE MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE!
I ALREADY ORDERED WINE.
A bottle

*AJILLO MUSHROOMS: A DISH OF COOKED MUSHROOMS WITH A GARLIC SAUCE/*KARASUMI: A DELICACY MADE BY DRYING SALTED MULLET ROE IN THE SUN

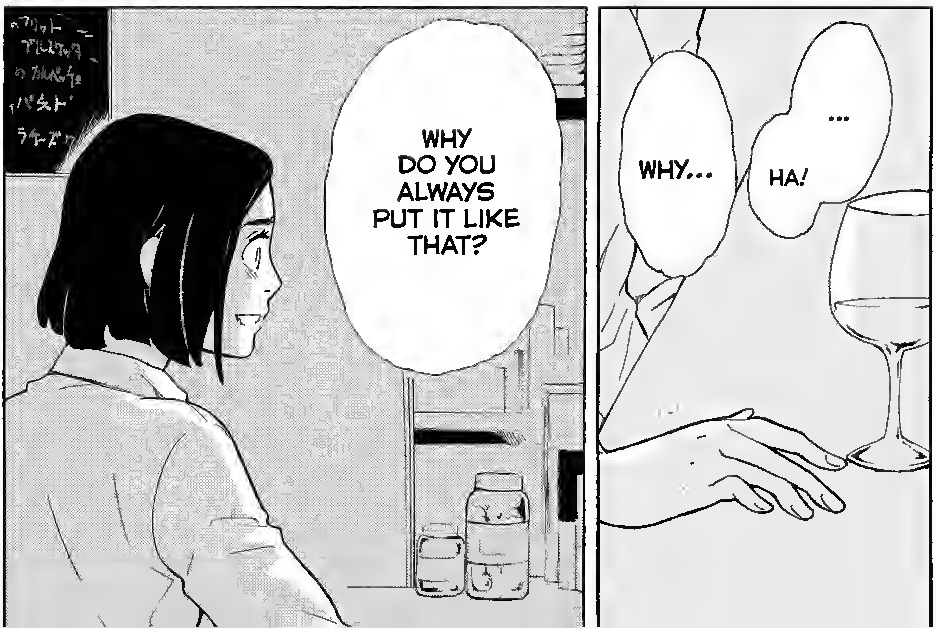




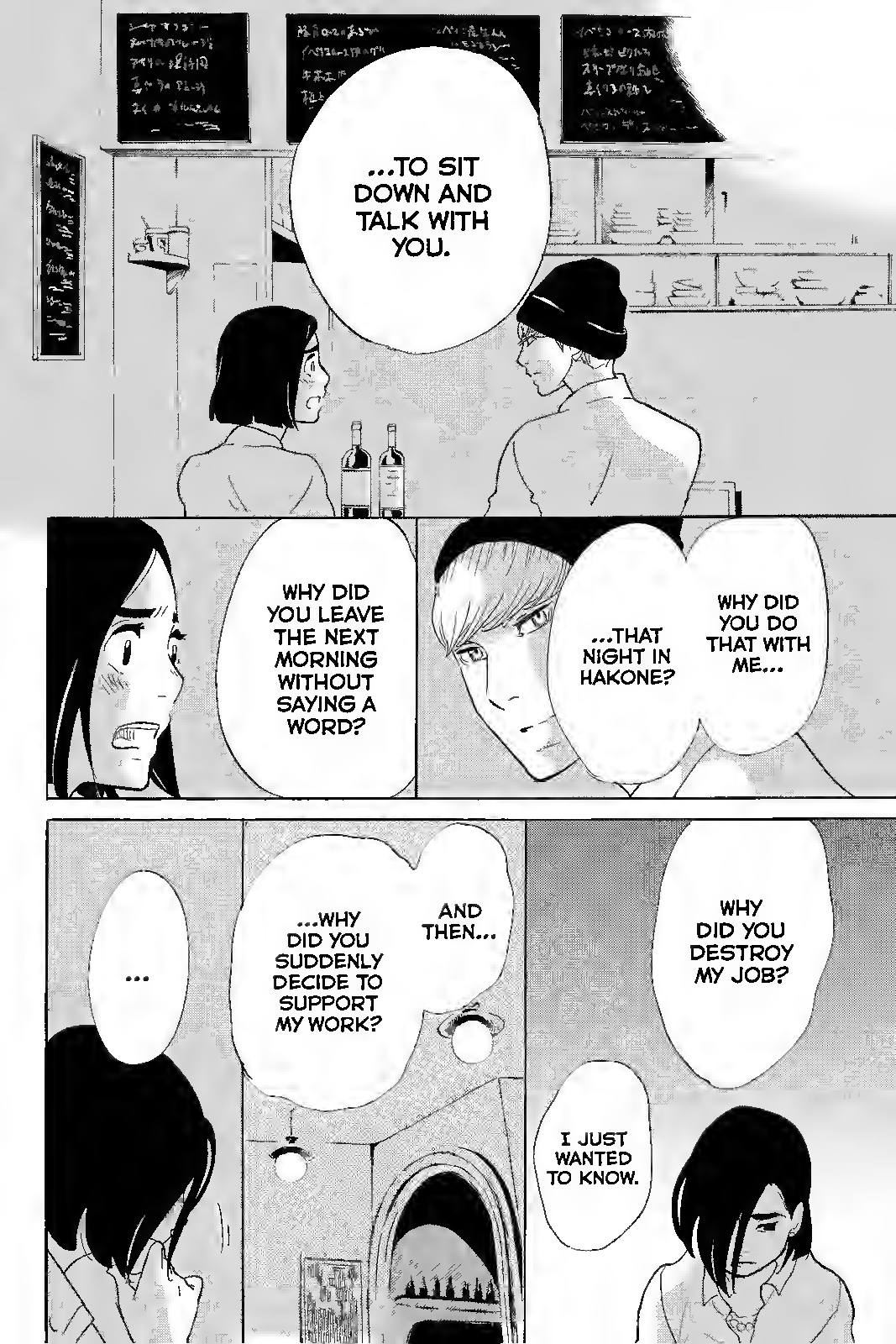
...SO WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
YOU ASKED ME TO TAKE TIME OUT OF MY RIDICULOUSLY BUSY SCHEDULE TO COME HERE...
THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING.
THIS LITTLE MEETING.
WHAT'S IT FOR?
NOT THAT!
... WAS IT?
P-PINCHOS?
SORRY. THAT'S JUST MY PERSONALITY.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TALK LIKE THAT?
HEY...
...!
UGH!
AS LONG AS I GET TO THE POINT, I'M GOOD.
I'M NOT GOOD AT THAT.
...ENJOY AN ADULT CONVERSATION?
LIKE... WHEN YOU KIND OF RESPECT EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS AND...
YOU KNOW ...
CAN'T WE JUST...

I DON'T WANT ANY PART IN ONE OF THOSE WINDING, PROBING CONVERSATIONS WHERE YOU NEVER GET ANYWHERE.
SO JUST GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH ALREADY.
IS IT ABOUT WORK?
OR IS IT...
WHY DID YOU INVITE ME TO DINNER?

...BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT THE MAN WHO SLEPT WITH YOU ONCE WOULD THROW YOU ANOTHER BONE?


WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PUT IT LIKE THAT?
WHY...
...
HA!

YOU'RE NOT A NORMAL YOUNG MAN...
THIS ISN'T NORMAL.
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH YOU...
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TRY TO HURT ME?
WE HAVEN'T EVEN MADE A TOAST YET.
I ONLY WANTED...


...TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH YOU.
WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE NEXT MORNING WITHOUT SAYING A WORD?
...THAT NIGHT IN HAKONE?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT WITH ME...
...
...WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO SUPPORT MY WORK?
AND THEN...
WHY DID YOU DESTROY MY JOB?
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW.

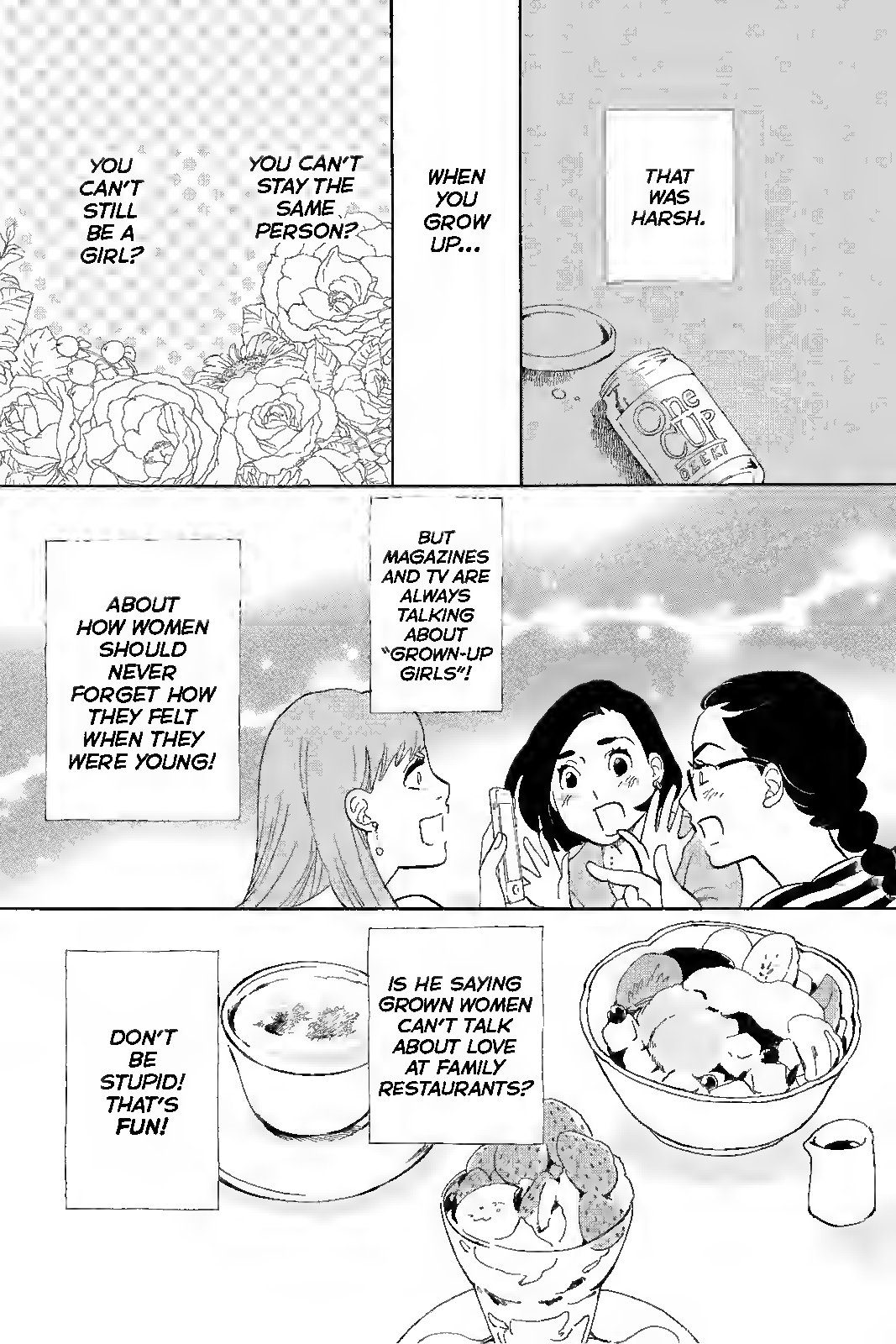
I'M LEAV-ING.
WHAT IS WITH YOU? JEEZ...
ガタ
THUNK
GRAB
ガシ
!!

THEN CALL ME YOURSELF.
YOU WOMEN ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
EVEN AT YOUR AGE, YOU'RE STILL GETTING TOGETHER JUST GIRLS ...
MAKING A BUNCH OF NOISE ...
DAYDREAMING ABOUT THINGS THAT DID OR DIDN'T HAPPEN...
GETTING WORKED UP...
AND ACTING WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT ON NOTHING MORE THAN THOSE DAYDREAMS.
SO I'M ON ALERT TOO.
HEY.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING OLDER FOR?
I COULD NEVER LOVE A WOMAN LIKE THAT.
WATCHING YOU THREE TICKS ME OFF.

I COULD NEVER LOVE YOU.

SIGH.
GLUG GLUG
ゴクゴク
PSHH
プシッ
KA-CLUNK
ガコン
のど
カ
清酒
One Cup

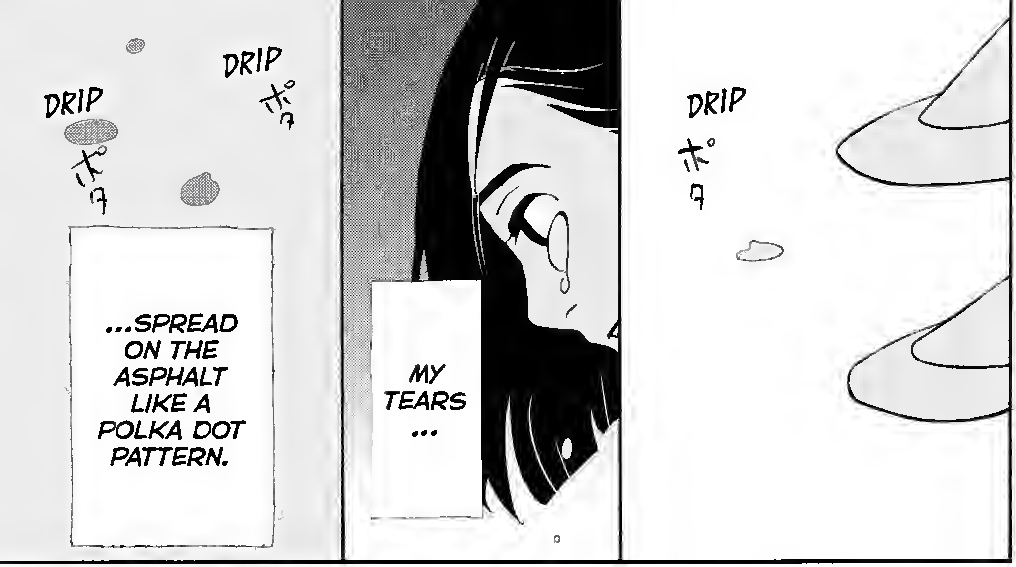

YOU CAN'T STILL BE A GIRL?
YOU CAN'T STAY THE SAME PERSON?
WHEN YOU GROW UP...
THAT WAS HARSH.
One Cup
ABOUT HOW WOMEN SHOULD NEVER FORGET HOW THEY FELT WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG!
BUT MAGAZINES AND TV ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT "GROWN-UP GIRLS"!
DON'T BE STUPID! THAT'S FUN!
IS HE SAYING GROWN WOMEN CAN'T TALK ABOUT LOVE AT FAMILY RESTAURANTS?

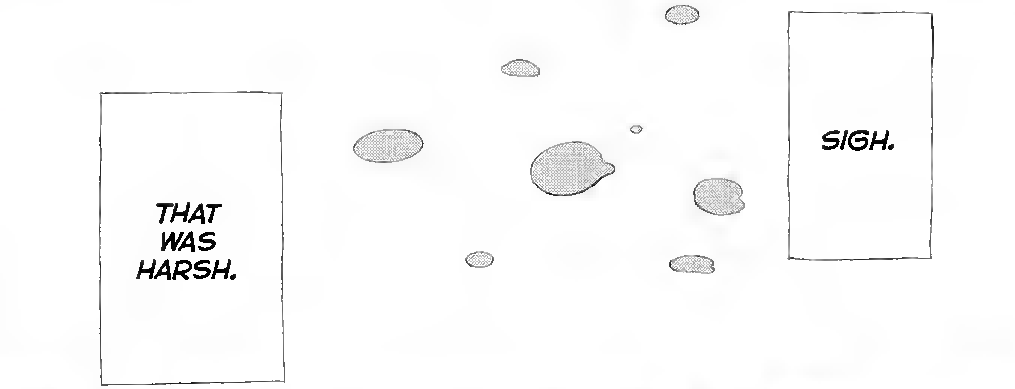
FWISH
YOU GOT ALL WORKED UP LIKE YOU WERE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL AND ENDED UP HURT BECAUSE OF IT, HUH?
WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, THREE HEADS ARE NOT NECESSARILY BETTER THAN ONE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
HEY THERE.
SINCE YOU CALLED, WE MADE OUR APPEARANCE! TA-DA-DAH!
I DIDN'T CALL YOU.
SPRING
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY...
HE COULD NEVER LOVE...
...ME?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF HE MEANT YOU'RE NOT A "GOOD WOMAN"?
YEAH, TO PUT IT SIMPLY. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
HA!
"GOOD WOMAN" ...
SO IF YOU GO OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIENDS AND GET A LITTLE LOUD AT AGE 33, YOU'RE NOT A "GOOD WOMAN"?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S RIGHT, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO HIM?
OH, REALLY?
THEN I'LL JUST...
LOOK FOR SOMEONE...
WHO DOESN'T CARE WHETHER I'M A "GOOD WOMAN."

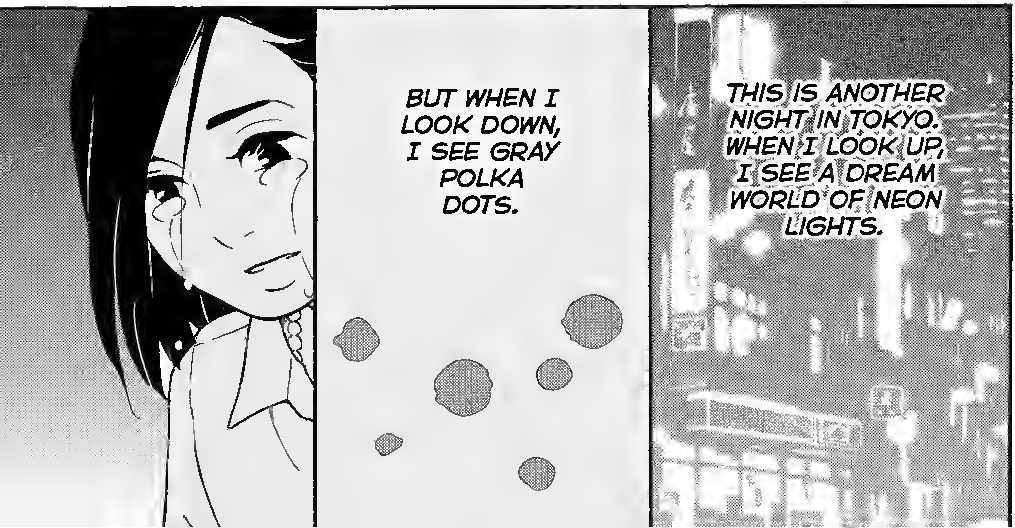
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT!
I'LL FIND A MAN THAT THINKS IT'S CUTE HOW I SPEND ALL MY TIME HAVING FUN GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT WITH MY GIRLFRIENDS.
...BY A COLD MAN LIKE HIM.
I'D NEVER EVEN THINK OF CHANGING MYSELF SO I COULD BE LOVED...
PUFF
PUFF
NEVER.

RINKO.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... ARE YOU OKAY?
CHEER UP.
WHAT?
ARE *YOU* REALLY ASKING ME THAT?
WELL ...
I MEAN ...
AFTER ALL THE ABUSE YOU'VE HURLED MY WAY...
...YOU JUST DECIDED TO BE NICE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

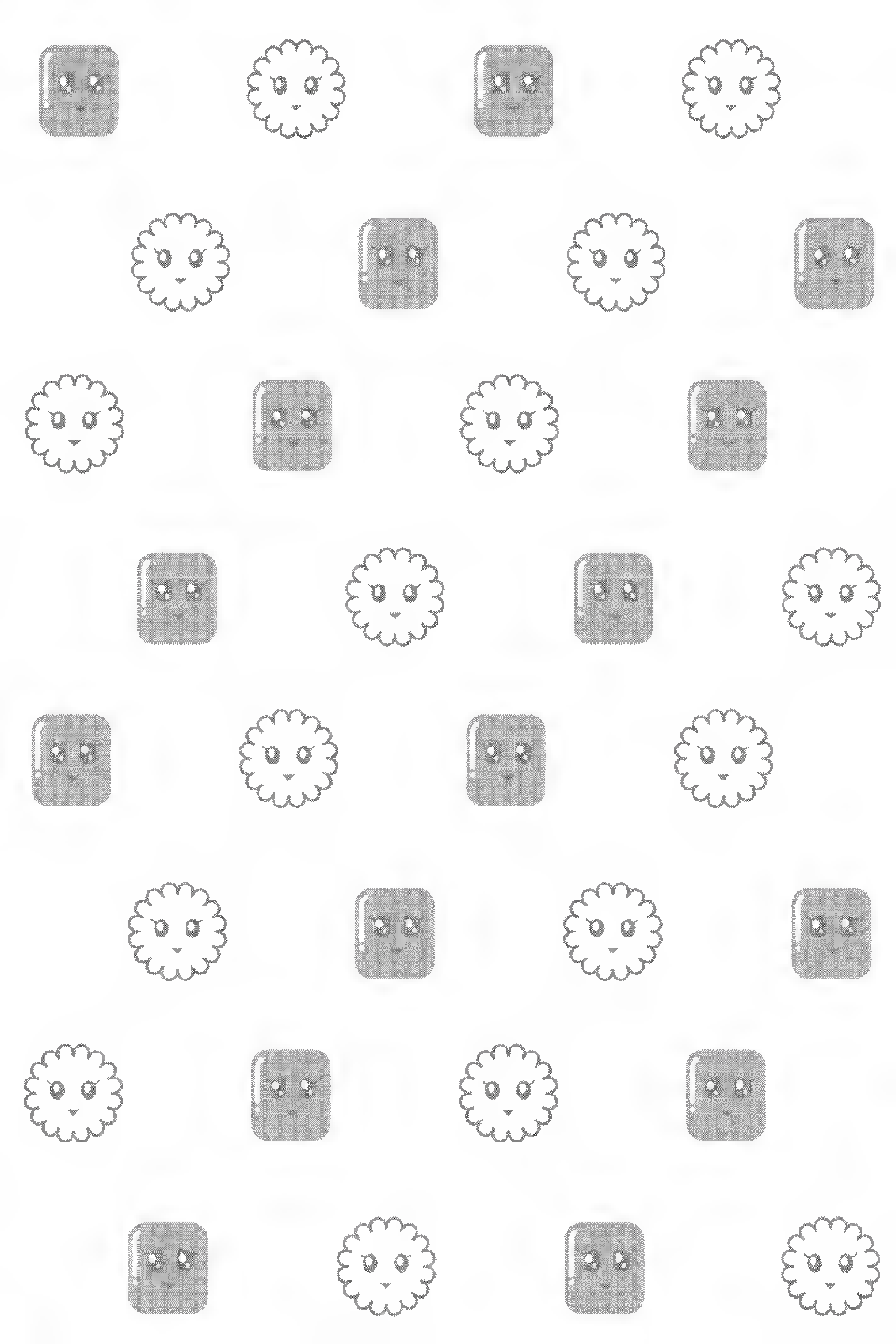
YOU'RE CRYING.


DRIP
ポタ
DRIP
ポタ
...SPREAD ON THE ASPHALT LIKE A POLKA DOT PATTERN.
MY TEARS ...
DRIP
ポタ


THAT WAS HARSH.
SIGH.


BUT WHEN I LOOK DOWN, I SEE GRAY POLKA DOTS.
THIS IS ANOTHER NIGHT IN TOKYO. WHEN I LOOK UP, I SEE A DREAM WORLD OF NEON LIGHTS.

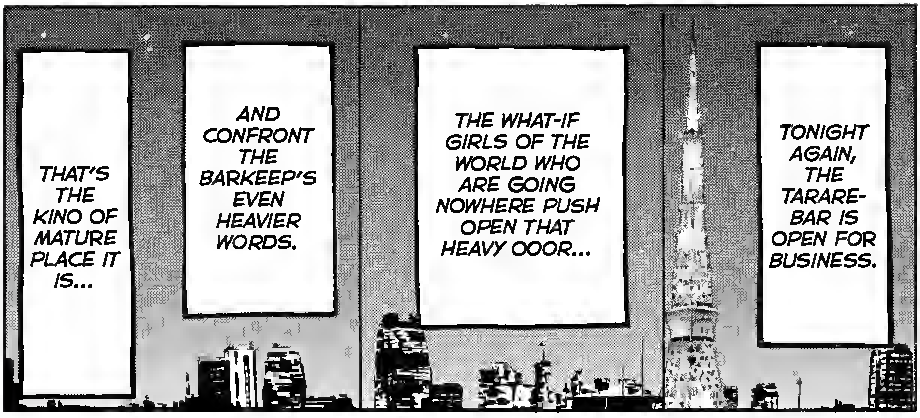
POLKA DOTS ARE THE PERFECT LOOK FOR THOSE OF US WHO NEVER GREW UP.



TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS
(SIDE STORY)

Tarare-Bar

IN THE FOLLOWING SIDE STORY, "TARARE-BAR," WE PUBLISH PROBLEMS SUBMITTED BY READERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.


THAT'S THE KIND OF MATURE PLACE IT IS...
AND CONFRONT THE BARKEEP'S EVEN HEAVIER WORDS.
THE WHAT-IF GIRLS OF THE WORLD WHO ARE GOING NOWHERE PUSH OPEN THAT HEAVY DOOR...
TONIGHT AGAIN, THE TARARE-BAR IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

I TURNED 30 THIS YEAR.

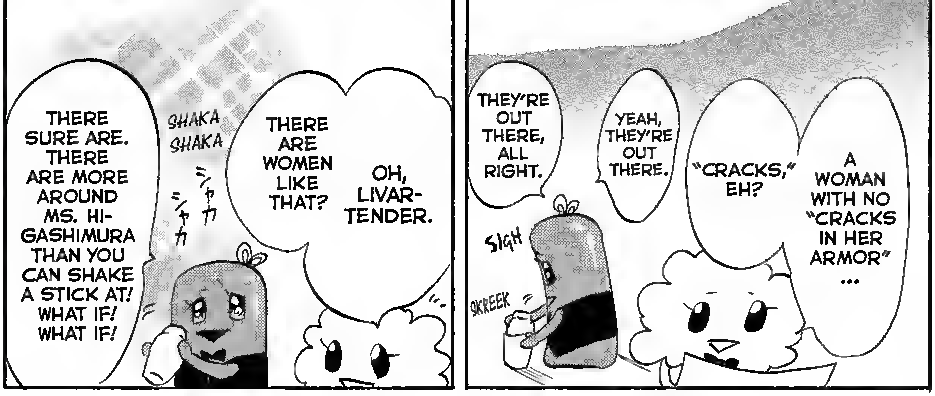
MY FRIENDS TELL ME I CAN'T FIND A BOYFRIEND BECAUSE THERE ARE "NO CRACKS IN MY ARMOR."

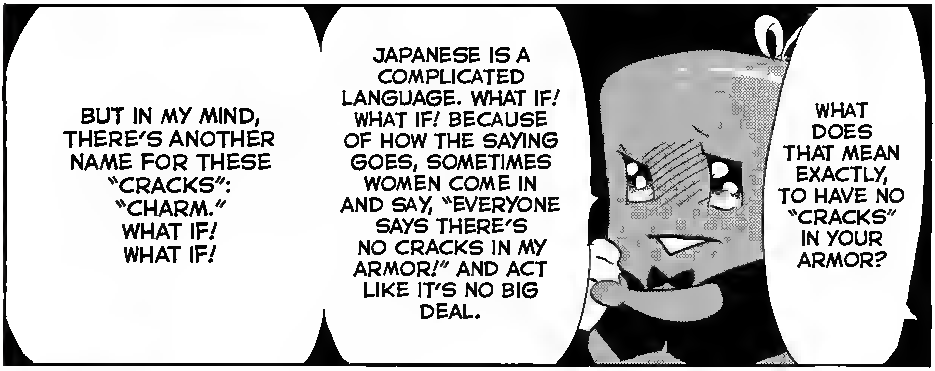
THE DAY AFTER I ATTENDED ONE OF THOSE MUNICIPAL MIXERS, I GOT A LINE MESSAGE FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD MAN I'D ONLY TALKED TO FOR 10 MINUTES. IT SAID: "I THINK IF YOU SWALLOWED YOUR PRIDE A LITTLE MORE AND WERE A LITTLE NICER, YOU'D BE MUCH, MUCH MORE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, KAREN!"

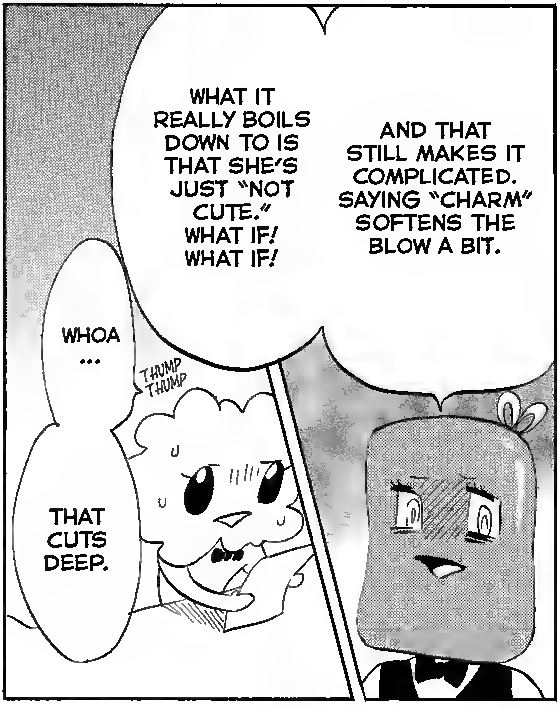
(AND THIS WAS AT 3PM ON A WEEKDAY. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "HOW ANNOYING!!", BUT I COULDN'T DENY IT.)

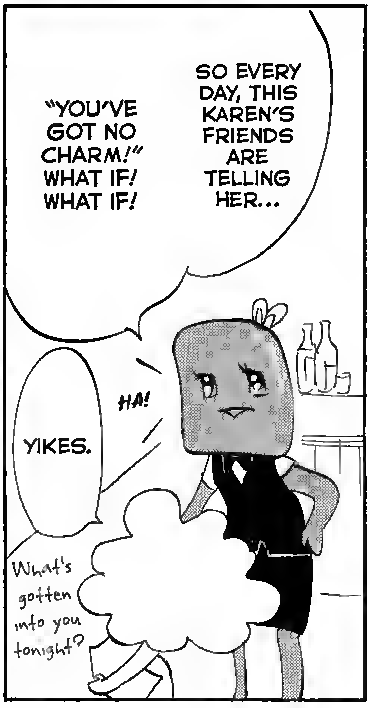
HOW DO I CREATE SOME "CRACKS" IN MY ARMOR? I CAN'T HELP THINKING I WAS JUST BORN LIKE THIS. IN FACT, DO I EVEN NEED THESE "CRACKS" IN THE FIRST PLACE?

〈PN: KAREN〉


THERE SURE ARE. THERE ARE MORE AROUND MS. HIGASHIMURA THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
SHAKA SHAKA
THERE ARE WOMEN LIKE THAT?
OH, LIVAR-TENDER.
THEY'RE OUT THERE, ALL RIGHT.
YEAH, THEY'RE OUT THERE.
"CRACKS," EH?
A WOMAN WITH NO "CRACKS IN HER ARMOR" ...
SIGH
SKREEK


BUT IN MY MIND, THERE'S ANOTHER NAME FOR THESE "CRACKS": "CHARM." WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
JAPANESE IS A COMPLICATED LANGUAGE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF! BECAUSE OF HOW THE SAYING GOES, SOMETIMES WOMEN COME IN AND SAY, "EVERYONE SAYS THERE'S NO CRACKS IN MY ARMOR!" AND ACT LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY, TO HAVE NO "CRACKS" IN YOUR ARMOR?


WHAT IT REALLY BOILS DOWN TO IS THAT SHE'S JUST "NOT CUTE." WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
AND THAT STILL MAKES IT COMPLICATED. SAYING "CHARM" SOFTENS THE BLOW A BIT.
WHOA ...
THUMP THUMP
THAT CUTS DEEP.


"YOU'VE GOT NO CHARM!" WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
SO EVERY DAY, THIS KAREN'S FRIENDS ARE TELLING HER...
HA!
YIKES.
What's gotten into you tonight?

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE MAGIC OF WORDS!!

"YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CRACKS IN YOUR ARMOR."

PUT DIFFERENTLY MEANS...

"YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND BECAUSE YOUR PERSONALITY ISN'T CUTE."

LET US REVIEW AGAIN.

SKREEK

SKREEK

THERE'S PLENTY OF FAT OR UGLY GIRLS WHO ALWAYS HAVE A BOYFRIEND AND PLENTY MORE IN HAPPY MARRIAGES.

PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND. LIVARTENDER HERE ISN'T SAYING THAT YOU DON'T LOOK CUTE.

T.O.T SOB

AND YET YOU CALLED HIM ANNOYING! WHAT A BAD ATTITUDE...

SHE SENT A REAL LINE SCREENSHOT!

I THINK IF YOU SWALLOWED YOUR PRIDE A LITTLE MORE AND WERE A LITTLE NICER...

YOU'D BE MUCH, MUCH MORE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, KAREN!

BY THE WAY, THAT FELLOW YOU TALKED TO FOR ONLY 10 MINUTES GAVE YOU THAT "I THINK IF YOU SWALLOWED YOUR PRIDE A LITTLE MORE AND WERE A LITTLE NICER, YOU'D BE MUCH, MUCH MORE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, KAREN!" ADVICE OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF HIS HEART...

SIGH...

STUPID!! STUPID!!

I had a bad feeling when I saw this "how annoying" in the first place.

HOW ANNOYING!!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, AKIKO WADA IN ONE OF THOSE ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS?!

I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD BRAT!!

BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...

EVEN WITH THE SAME LOOKS

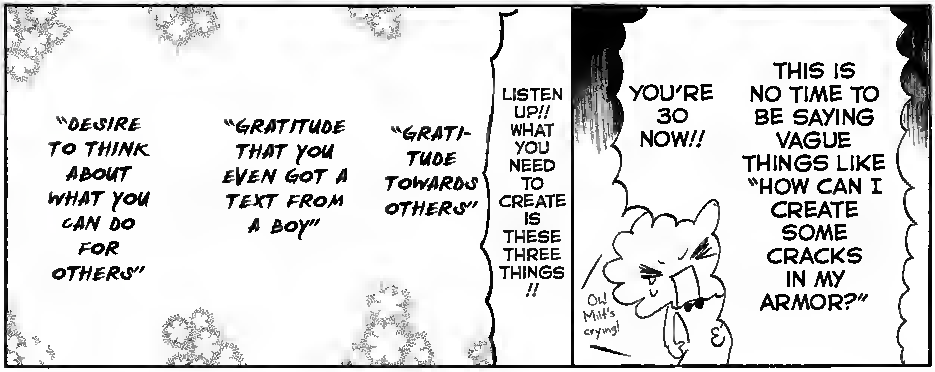
THANK YOU. WE ONLY MET ONCE, YET YOU SENT ME SUCH PRECISE (LOL) ADVICE...

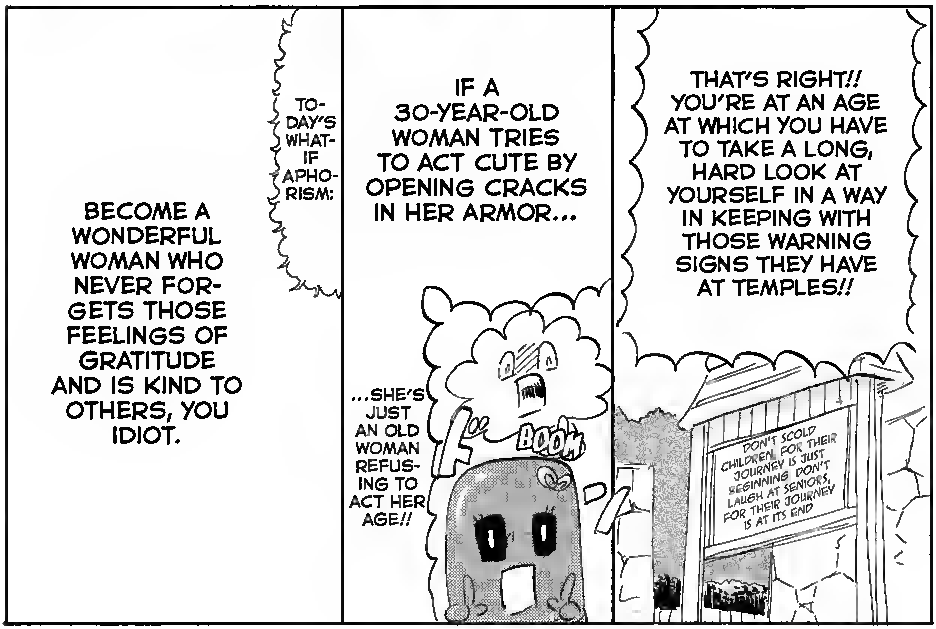
YOU'RE SO NICE, XXXX...

I'LL DO MY BEST TO IMPROVE MY ATTITUDE FROM NOW ON!!

HERE, A POPULAR GIRL WOULD SURELY SAY...

MOCKING HER "HOW ANNOYING!!"
BUT HOW ANNOYING OF YOU TO TRY TO BLAME YOUR LACK OF BOYFRIENDS ON THOSE VAGUE WORDS!!
SNAP
I'M SURE THOSE PERFECT, STERN, COOL, HARD-WORKING CAREER WOMEN ARE ALL PLENTY POPULAR AND ALL HAVE BOYFRIENDS OR HUSBANDS...
AND ANYWAY, YOU WOMEN ARE ALWAYS SAYING "GOSH, MAYBE I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY CRACKS IN MY ARMOR?" AT YOUR GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT!!

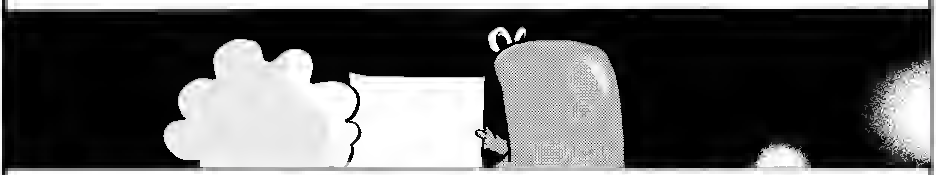

"DESIRE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR OTHERS"
"GRATITUDE THAT YOU EVEN GOT A TEXT FROM A BOY"
"GRATITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS"
LISTEN UP!! WHAT YOU NEED TO CREATE IS THESE THREE THINGS !!
YOU'RE 30 NOW!!
Oh Miki's crying!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SAYING VAGUE THINGS LIKE "HOW CAN I CREATE SOME CRACKS IN MY ARMOR?"


BECOME A WONDERFUL WOMAN WHO NEVER FORGETS THOSE FEELINGS OF GRATITUDE AND IS KIND TO OTHERS, YOU IDIOT.
TODAY'S WHAT-IF APHORISM:
IF A 30-YEAR-OLD WOMAN TRIES TO ACT CUTE BY OPENING CRACKS IN HER ARMOR...
...SHE'S JUST AN OLD WOMAN REFUSING TO ACT HER AGE!!
BOOM
THAT'S RIGHT!! YOU'RE AT AN AGE AT WHICH YOU HAVE TO TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT YOURSELF IN A WAY IN KEEPING WITH THOSE WARNING SIGNS THEY HAVE AT TEMPLES!!
DON'T SCOLD CHILDREN, FOR THEIR JOURNEY IS JUST BEGINNING. DON'T LAUGH AT SENIORS, FOR THEIR JOURNEY IS AT ITS END

★ NIGHT 5 ★
ARE OPENING THE HEAVY DOOR OF THIS BAR...
CLANG-A-CLANG
TONIGHT AGAIN, LONELY WHAT-IF GIRLS WHO CAN'T STAND BEING ALONE...
JUST LOOK OUT THERE.
THE SLEEP-LESS CITY TOKYO ...
HELLO MS. HIGASHIMURA, MY PSEUDONYM IS "I WANT TO SEND MY HEARTS."
NOW THAT'S A WILD PSEUDONYM ...
TONIGHT WE GOT A QUESTION FROM A MAIDEN THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFER-ENT THAN WHAT WE'VE GOTTEN BEFORE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
RUSTLE
SINCE WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HIT PRETTY HARD BY IT, LET'S GET RIGHT TO TONIGHT'S QUESTION!
WOW, CAN YOU BELIEVE THE RECENT CELEBRITY MARRIAGE RUSH?

I TURNED 28 THIS YEAR, BUT FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING VISUAL-KEI BANDS, BECOMING ONE OF THOSE "BAND GALS."

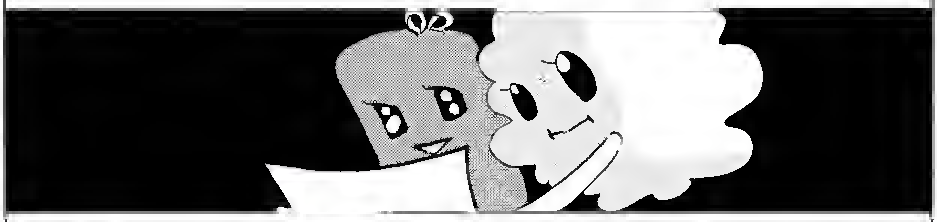
I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY OR STAMINA, SO I CAN ONLY GO TO CONCERTS ABOUT TWICE A MONTH, BUT WHEN I DO MAKE IT TO THE SHOWS, I WATCH MY FAVORITE BAND MEMBERS AND CRY WHILE SCREAMING THINGS LIKE, "LOOK AT HOW AGGRESSIVELY YOU'RE PLAYING THAT BASS WITH THAT THIN BODY! I'LL FEED YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT!" OR "XXXX ACTUALLY EXISTS IN THIS WORLD!!"



MY FRIENDS SAY, "SO WHAT? YOU'RE HAVING FUN!" BUT WHEN I LOOK AT ALL THE CDS AND MERCHANDISE IN MY ROOM, IT JUST MAKES ME DEPRESSED. I THINK, "WHAT AM I DOING?" IF I GOT SICK OR LOST MY JOB, IT'S NOT LIKE THESE MUSICIANS WOULD SUPPORT ME, AND AT THIS RATE I'M GOING TO DIE ALONE SURROUNDED BY THESE CDS AND MERCHANDISE.

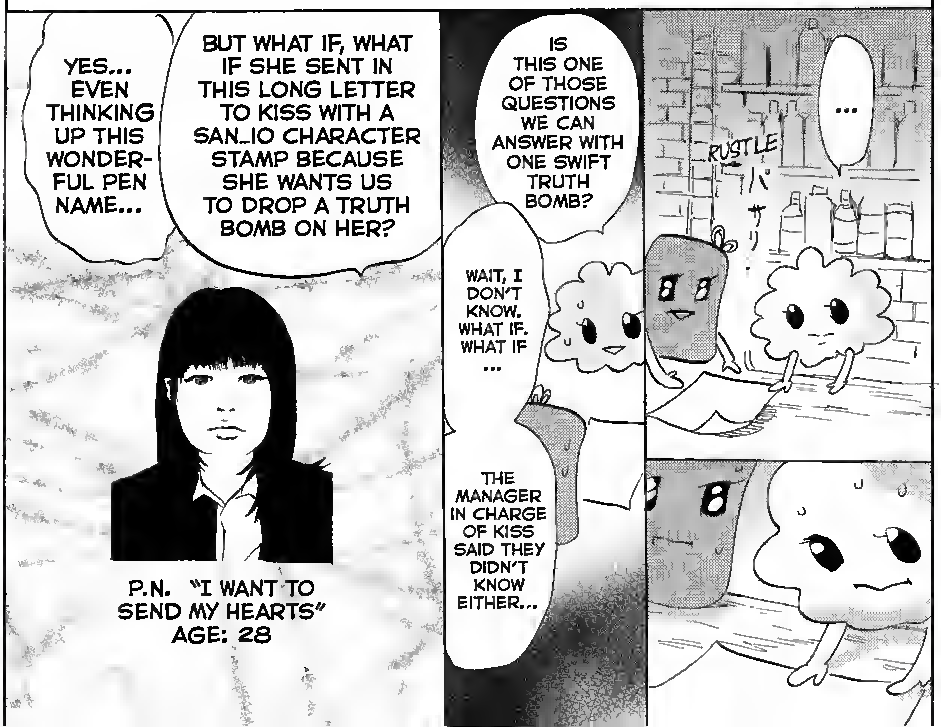
I WANT TO MARRY A NORMAL, KIND OFFICE WORKER WHO LOVES ME. BUT WHEN I GO TO CONCERTS, I FEEL LIKE "THIS MOMENT IS EVERYTHING!!". WHEN MY FRIENDS ARRANGE MIXER-TYPE THINGS FOR ME, I CAN'T GET EVEN THE MEN I LIKE TO BE INTERESTED IN ME. AFTERWARDS, I'LL GO TO CONCERTS AND DREAM ABOUT THE BAND MEMBERS AND DOWNGRADE THE REAL-LIFE GUY I'M INTERESTED IN TO THE RANK OF "MAYBE". BUT SINCE HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN ME EITHER, IT NEVER GOES ANYWHERE.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE ALONE.
I'M SCARED. I REALLY DO WANT
TO GET MARRIED.

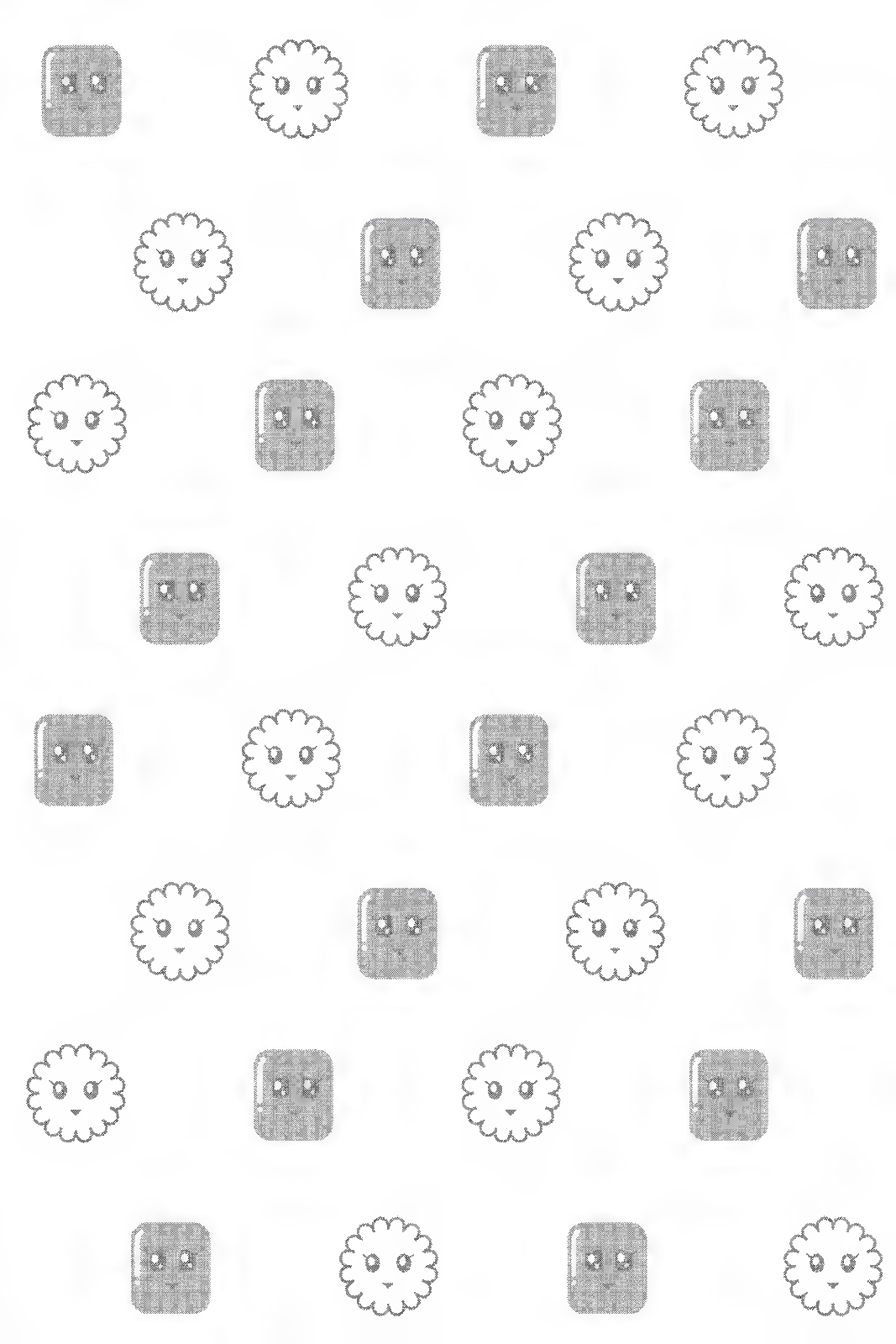


BUT BEFORE I KNOW IT, I'VE BOUGHT MORE CONCERT TICKETS, I WATCH NOTHING BUT MOVIES WITH THESE BAND MEMBERS ON MY DAYS OFF, AND IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK, I'D PROBABLY GRAB MY PASSBOOK AND GO ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MY FAVORITE MUSICIANS. THAT'S HOW BAD IT IS. (VISUAL-KEI BANDS DO A LOT OF SHOWS. THE MOST PROLIFIC ONES CAN HAVE OVER 100 CONCERTS A YEAR.)

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. SERIOUSLY.


YES... EVEN THINKING UP THIS WONDER-FUL PEN NAME...
BUT WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE SENT IN THIS LONG LETTER TO KISS WITH A SAN..IO CHARACTER STAMP BECAUSE SHE WANTS US TO DROP A TRUTH BOMB ON HER?
P.N. "I WANT TO SEND MY HEARTS" AGE: 28
IS THIS ONE OF THOSE QUESTIONS WE CAN ANSWER WITH ONE SWIFT TRUTH BOMB?
WAIT, I DON'T KNOW. WHAT IF. WHAT IF ...
THE MANAGER IN CHARGE OF KISS SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW EITHER...
...
RUSTLE
パサリ

Sheesh.
This wife of mine...
LIVE
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S BECAUSE EVEN IF THEY LOVE SOME IDOL, HE'S THEIR LOVER IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THAN THEIR HUSBAND IS?
BECAUSE THERE ARE PLENTY OF WOMEN WHO FOLLOW BANDS AND IDOLS WHO ARE HAPPILY MARRIED. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
...BUT THAT BECAUSE SHE'S FULL OF DREAMS ABOUT HEAVENLY CELEBRITIES, SHE CAN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH A REAL LIVE EARTHLY MAN?
SO WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE'S SAYING THAT THE REAL PROBLEM ISN'T THAT SHE'S TOO BUSY FOLLOWING BANDS TO GET MARRIED...
WELL, THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE. WHAT IF WHAT IF.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THIS WRITER KNOWS SHE'S ONE OF THE HOPELESS ONES? WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE ALREADY KNOWS THE ANSWER?
YEP! WHAT IF WHAT IF THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO?!
THEN THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF I REEEALLY GET THE FEELING HER TYPE'S NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO DO THAT?
FLASH
BUT AS LONG AS SHE CAN'T SEPARATE FANTASY AND REALITY, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE'S STILL IN THAT STAGE WHERE SHE CAN'T MAKE THAT SEPARATION?
HOW CAN THIS WOMAN MAKE THAT MENTAL SEPARATION ANYWAY? WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
HEH HEH HEH
STOP CHASING THEM.
TODAY'S WHAT-IF APHORISM:
THEN WHY NOT STOP CHASING BANDS EVERYWHERE WITHIN THE YEAR AND USE THE MONEY YOU SAVE IN IMPROVING YOURSELF?!
IF YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO CHANGE THAT...
AND WHAT IF, WHAT IF YOU PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME SO THAT WHEN YOUR FAVORITE MUSICIAN MARRIES A MODEL OR AN IDOL YOU DON'T DIE OF SHOCK?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THIS HAIRSTYLE WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF PROJECTING YOUR HEARTS ONE-WAY TOWARD THE STAGE FOR YOUR REMAINING YEARS IS ONE WAY TO SPEND YOUR LIFE?!
RMB RMB RMB RMB
THEN I'M GONNA DROP THIS TRUTH BOMB!! IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SAY YOU'RE PREPARED TO LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE FOLLOWING AND SUPPORTING THESE BANDS, BECOMING "NOURISHMENT" FOR THEM, THEN DO AS YOU LIKE!!
DOPE!



ON A STREET CORNER
BONUS COMIC
WOMEN LIKE THIS!!
LATELY, PEOPLE HAVE EVEN STARTED APPROACHING ME WHILE I'M OUT ON THE TOWN!
M-
MS. HIGASHIMURA!!
GOSH, BEFORE I KNEW IT, TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS WAS ALREAOY ON VOLUME 4!!
4
End
THIS IS HIGASHIMURA SPEAKING!
THANKS FOR BUYING THIS BOOK, EVERYONE!
I just turned 40!
MS. HIGASHIMURA!
C-CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN! IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!
O-OH...
Oh jeez! Oh jeez!
Doesn't really ask for an autograph or anything.
GRAB
MS. HIGASHIMURA!! I READ TARAREBA GIRLS AND REALIZED I WAS IN TROUBLE, SO NOW I'M THINKING OF STARTING THE HUSBAND HUNT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!!
BOOM
Right! to the matter at hand!
THEN...
OH! BECAUSE I'M WEARING THIS TRACK SUIT?
WHOA! I'M SURPRISED YOU RECOGNIZED ME!
YOU'RE MS. AKIKO HIGASHIMURA, AREN'T YOU?!
At the supermarket while on a trip.

(1) A THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN TALKS TO ME.
You're Ms Higashimura, aren't you?
(2) I GRAB THEIR SHOULDERS THE SECOND THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTHS.
GRAB
GRAB
(3) AND HOLD THEIR HANDS TIGHTLY.
AND NOW, I'M PRETTY MUCH USED TO IT.
In Tokyo, no one really talks to me on the streets.
Although they do when I'm in stores and stuff.
SPACIN-OUT
RECENTLY, PROBABLY BECAUSE I APPEARED ON AN NHK PROGRAM, I'M BEING APPROACHED ESPECIALLY OFTEN WHEN I'M OUTSIDE OF TOKYO.
...THAT'S WHAT I SAY.
AND THEY ALL...
MS. HIGASHIMURA!! I'M GONNA BE MARRIED BY THE END OF THE YEAR!! I SWEAR IT!!
YARGH!!
HANG IN THERE!! YOU'LL FIND A NICE MAN ONE DAY!!
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!!
THEN, THE FIRST THING OUT OF MY MOUTH IS:
OHH! I GUESS NOT!!
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT THIS YEAR!! IT'S ALREADY SEPTEMBER!!
We always talk as we embrace
THEN BY SPRING OF NEXT YEAR!!
I'VE FOUND ANOTHER DREAM FOR MY LIFE. I HOPE YOU ALL SHOW UP WHEN THAT DAY COMES!
I'D LIKE TO ONE DAY RENT OUT MY FAVORITE DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT AND HOLD A SUPER-LARGE-SCALE GIRLS' NIGHT OUT WITH ALL THE WHAT-IF GIRLS.
THIS WORK IS ALWAYS SAYING GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT ARE FORBIDDEN, BUT...
THIS IS A WONDERFUL THING.
...AND SO EVEN THOUGH I'M MEETING THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME, I CAN FEEL THAT I'M CONNECTED TO ALL THE WHAT-IF GIRLS AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH A STRONG MENTAL BOND.
WHAP
And they all join me with the exact same attitude.

TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS VOLUME 4
TRANSLATION NOTES

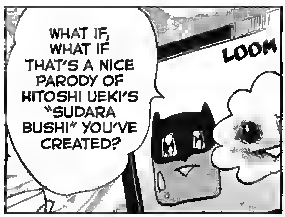
ABOUT THE NAME: "TARAREBA" MEANS "WHAT-IF," LIKE THE "WHAT-IF" STORIES YOU TELL YOURSELF ABOUT WHAT *COULD* BE OR *COULD HAVE* BEEN.

P021: THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA

A FRENCH-MADE, VIETNAMESE-LANGUAGE FILM FROM 1993 ABOUT THE LIFE OF A GIRL WHO BECOMES THE SERVANT OF A WEALTHY FAMILY WHEN SHE IS YOUNG.

P037: SUDARA BUSHI

A SHOWA-ERA POP SONG ABOUT A MAN WHO KEEPS DOING THINGS HE KNOWS ARE BAD FOR HIM BUT HE CAN'T STOP DOING, LIKE OVER-DRINKING AND GAMBLING AWAY HIS BONUS MONEY. EACH VERSE ENDS WITH THE PHRASE "I KNOW (I SHOULDN'T), BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP," WHICH RINKO TWISTS INTO HER "I KNOW THAT, BUT I JUST CAN'T BEAR IT." THE "SUI SUI SUDARA RATTA" BIT IS FROM THE NONSENSE CHORUS OF THE SONG.

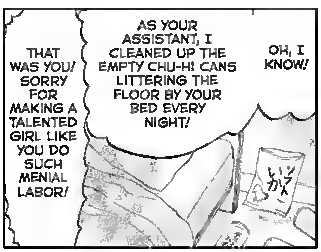


P053: THE WHAT-A-WASTE GHOSTS

A REFERENCE TO A SERIES OF TV PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS RELEASED BY THE JAPAN AD COUNCIL IN THE EARLY 1980S CENTERED AROUND GHOSTS THAT APPEAR WHEN CHARACTERS WASTE THINGS LIKE FOOD, CAUSING THEM TO CORRECT THEIR BEHAVIOR.

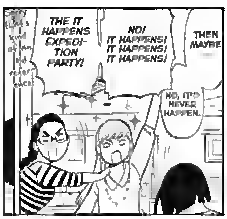
P127: CHU-HI

A CANNED VERSION OF CHUHAI, AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TRADITIONALLY MADE WITH SHOCHU AND CARBONATED WATER FLAVORED WITH LEMON, THOUGH VODKA AND OTHER LIQUORS, AS WELL AS OTHER MIXERS/FLAVORINGS CAN BE USED IN MODERN VERSIONS.


THAT WAS YOU! SORRY FOR MAKING A TALENTED GIRL LIKE YOU DO SUCH MENIAL LABOR!
AS YOUR ASSISTANT, I CLEANED UP THE EMPTY CHU-HI CANS LITTERING THE FLOOR BY YOUR BED EVERY NIGHT!
OH, I KNOW!

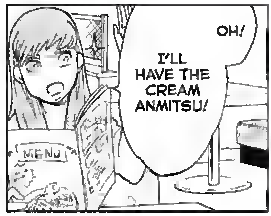
P135: THE IT HAPPENS EXPEDITION PARTY

A REFERENCE TO AN ACT FROM THE EARLY 2000S BY THE COMEDY DUO "REGULAR" IN WHICH THE TWO POINT OUT LITTLE THINGS EVERYONE HAS PROBABLY EXPERIENCED AT SOME POINT (OR, SOMETIMES FOR LAUGHS, THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO NO ONE) TO A LITTLE SONG AND DANCE.



TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS VOLUME 4
TRANSLATION NOTES

P138: ANMITSU



A JAPANESE DESSERT MADE WITH AGAR JELLY AND AZUKI BEAN PASTE, WITH BOILED AND CHILLED PEAS, GYUH! (SOFT MOCHI), FRUIT, AND A SWEETENED SYRUP TO TOP IT WITH. CREAM ANMITSU IS THE SAME DISH SERVED WITH WHIPPED OR ICE CREAM.

P145

ALSO, THE IBERICO DE BELLOTA AND SALAD!
HEY! WAIT A SECOND! DON'T JUST ORDER WITHOUT ME! LET ME SEE THAT MENU!
I'LL HAVE THE AJILLO MUSHROOMS*, SARDINES IN OIL, AND KARASUMI*

AJILLO MUSHROOMS: A DISH OF COOKED MUSHROOMS WITH A GARLIC SAUCE.

KARASUMI: A DELICACY MADE BY DRYING SALTED MULLET ROE IN THE SUN.

IBERICO OE BELLOTA: CURED PORK MADE FROM BLACK IBERIAN PIGS THAT WERE FED ONLY ACORNS.

P146: PINCHOS

SMALL SNACKS TYPICALLY EATEN SOCIALLY IN BARS, CONSISTING OF VARIOUS INGREDIENTS HELD TOGETHER WITH A TOOTHPICK AND SKEWERED ON A PIECE OF BREAD.

P167: AKIKO WADA

STUPID!
STUPID!
BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND,
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS FROM A 25 YEAR-OLD BRAT!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, AKIKO WADA IN ONE OF THOSE ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS?!
HOW ANNOYING!!

A JAPANESE SINGER AND PERFORMER WHO IS VERY COOPERATIVE WITH REPORTERS.

Tokyo Tarareba Girls 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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